

Warrington Schools Forum

Agenda

Tuesday 10 January 2017

5.15pm - 7pm

Conference Room 1st Floor New Town House

Car parking will be available from 5pm onwards

	Item	Enc / Verbal	Decision; Discussion; Information	Entitled to vote	Lead
1.	Apologies and welcome				Chair
2.	School audits	Enc	Information		Simon Bleckly
3.	Teacher Trade Union facilities time	Enc	Decision		Sarah Whittaker Julie Holt
4.	School Budget 2017/18 and De-delegation decisions	Enc	Information/ Decision		Garry Bradbury
5.	Update on consultations	Enc	Information		Garry Bradbury
6.	Minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising	Enc			Chair
7.	Update on High Needs	Enc	Decision		Hilary Smith
8.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Living Wage (Mark Leach) 	Verbal	Information		Chair
9.	Meeting schedule Thursday 2 March 2017, 5.15pm Tuesday 27 June 2017, 5.15pm Tuesday 3 October 2017, 5.15pm Tuesday 5 December 2017, 5.15pm (Conference Room, 1 st Floor NTH)				

REPORT



Report to: Schools Forum

Item: 2

Date: 10th January 2017

For: Information

Title: Schools Annual Report

Author: Simon Bleckly

Presenter: Simon Bleckly

Internal Audit Service

FAMILIES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE

REVIEW OF SCHOOLS AUDITS 2015-16

JANUARY 2017

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WARRINGTON
Borough Council



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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the main findings from the school audits carried out by Internal Audit in 2015-16 and provides an overall opinion on the governance and control frameworks in place in schools, supporting the completion of the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2015-16.

2. MAIN FINDINGS - AUDITS

Seven schools were audited in 2015-16, and one follow up was carried out on a school that had previously had a Limited opinion report. The table below provides a comparison of the assurance ratings with previous years. Appendix One contains the definitions for the audit assurance opinions and recommendation risk ratings.

Summary of Audit Opinions, 2013-14 to 2015-16

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Total
High	3	0	3	6
Substantial	8	6	3	17
Limited	1	0	1	2
Minimal	0	0	0	0
Total	12	6	7	25

The table below summarises the number of recommendations made in 2015-16, by priority, in each area of the schools testing programme. It was pleasing to note that there were very few High priority recommendations made during the year.

Recommendations made in school audits in 2015-16

	Critical	High	Medium	Low
Leadership & governance	0	0	7	6
Financial management and control	0	1	7	3
Orders and payments	0	0	6	7
Bank imprest and petty cash	0	0	2	2
People management	0	0	1	3
Income and banking	0	0	11	3
Asset and security management	0	0	1	12
Unofficial funds	0	0	1	5
Total	0	1	36	41

The following are the most common issues identified during the audits. It should be noted that some of these issues recur regularly, even though most are matters that could be addressed without too much difficulty.

- Governors' financial skills not formally assessed / assessment out of date
- Lack of independent scrutiny of debit card transactions / card PIN being made available to other staff
- Expenditure incurred without official orders being raised
- Lack of separation of duties or poor audit trail for orders / payroll / income and banking
- Late receipting of income on FMS
- Handovers of cash not signed in evidence

We review the information that schools provide and publish in relation to their use of pupil premium; effective use of this funding is seen by OFSTED as a key factor in schools closing the attainment gap between pupils. From our reviews we found that all schools were publishing information about how they were using this funding. We were able to verify that schools were using the funding for the stated purposes, although we do not review delivery of outcomes.

During 2015-16 we carried out an authority-wide programme of payroll testing, to ensure that employees received the correct amounts of pay: this included a random sample of payroll transactions from schools. In most cases, the payments were correct and had been accurately processed, although two issues were identified that are of relevance to schools, as follows:

- A number of payroll forms from schools had not been submitted from an authorised signatory's mailbox, or there was no up to date signatories list held centrally by Employee Services to enable them to check that the forms had been properly authorised.
- An overtime payment had been miscoded, relating to hours worked at one school which had been charged to another school. Neither school had picked up the error as part of their payroll verification / budget monitoring arrangements.

These issues were addressed as part of the reporting process for this review.

3. THE SCHOOLS FINANCIAL VALUE STANDARD

The Standard is a list of formal questions that school governing bodies are required to discuss with their head teacher and other senior staff in order to gain assurance that funds delegated to the school are safeguarded and spent effectively. Consideration of the questions can be delegated to a Finance Committee or equivalent, but the completed assurance statement must be signed by the Chair of Governors and considered by the Governing Body.

The completed statements have to be sent to the Council's section 151 Officer who will use this information to inform the schools audit programme and other financial assessments. The section 151 officer will also have to submit a statement each year confirming the deployment of Dedicated Schools Grant.

All eligible Warrington schools submitted signed statements for 2015-16 and no major areas of concern were identified, although there was some variation in the level of detail provided in the Statements. This enabled the section 151 officer to submit his DSG statement in May 2016. We carry out a brief review of each school's latest SFVS as part of our audit visits, to ensure that the self-evaluation and any improvement actions identified are broadly in line with the results of our own testing. This was the case for the schools that we audited in 2015-16.

4. THE AUDIT TESTING PROGRAMME, 2016-17 AND PLANNING FOR 2017-18

In order to ensure that our audits remain as effective as possible, we regularly review the content of our testing programme. No significant changes to the programme have been made this year.

We have started planning for 2017-18, and will be consulting staff in Families and Wellbeing to identify schools for review. As part of this process, we will take into account any plans for schools to become Academies.

5. REDUCING THE RISK OF FRAUD IN SCHOOLS

In the current economic climate, schools and other public bodies can face an increased risk of fraud, from internal and external sources. Thankfully, frauds committed by school staff remain rare, both locally and nationally, but the consequences can be severe. Most cases involve an abuse of position, and are often driven by financial pressures or changes in personal circumstances. Recent examples of national cases have included staff:

- Writing and cashing cheques.
- Making payments to non-existent suppliers.
- Using school procurement cards for personal purchases, and keeping or selling the goods.
- Falsely claiming additional payments (including overtime).

Schools do continue to be a prime target for external fraudsters. We regularly brief schools on national alerts issued by the National Anti-Fraud Network and other agencies, containing details of frauds and attempted scams. In 2015/16, we started to issue alerts of relevance to schools via the My School Services website. Examples of scams against schools include:

- Letters or emails purporting to come from suppliers, requesting that their bank account details be changed.
- Phishing e-mails, often asking you to enter your bank account details or passwords in order to “unlock” an account with your bank or a supplier (e.g. Amazon, Apple).
- Emails stating they are from HMRC regarding tax refunds.
- Bogus calls or visits from people pretending to work for companies that schools deal with, e.g. photographers, cash collection firms, asking to pick up income held by the school.

To help governors’ oversight of the financial management of their school, we have created a Schools Anti-Fraud Toolkit, containing information on identifying fraud behaviours and other potential indicators, as well as recent national fraud cases in schools. The Toolkit also has a checklist that will assist with the completion of the SFVS. Updated versions of the Toolkit and checklist are available via My School Services.

We included an item on the Governors’ Agenda for Spring Term 2016 on managing the risk of fraud to schools. The article highlighted the resources available to governors, including training, awareness-raising and e-learning. These services are available from the Internal Audit My School Services site.

6. CONCLUSION AND AUDIT OPINION ON SCHOOLS’ SYSTEMS OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Council’s Annual Governance Statement has to include assurances that there are effective controls and governance arrangements in place in all schools.

For 2015-16, the assurance for the AGS has been largely provided from the programme of school reviews and other relevant work, as summarised in this report. This report is submitted as part of the evidence to support the AGS and therefore includes a conclusion and audit opinion below giving our assessment of the overall control framework in operation in schools. Assurance has also been obtained from the submission of SFVS statements from all schools.

Our audit and assessment work continues to provide assurance that schools in Warrington have effective systems of financial management. The reviews that we have carried out in the last five years, covering the majority of the Council’s schools, have identified no significant risks or control issues that would require disclosure in the Council’s Annual Governance Statement.

We are satisfied that there is an effective framework for reporting our findings and recommendations to governors and senior managers and for appropriate action to be taken to improve existing controls.

We therefore conclude that there is **Substantial Assurance that Warrington schools have effective systems of governance and internal control in place.**

The Forum is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.

Simon Bleckly
Audit Manager,
Audit Services
January 2017

APPENDIX ONE
Assurance Opinions for Audits

Opinion	Narrative
High Assurance	Key controls are being applied consistently and effectively. This means that the key risks in the terms of reference are being properly managed and our review did not identify any weaknesses that would impact on the achievement of the key system, function or process objectives.
Substantial Assurance	Key controls exist but there is some inconsistency in their application and some of the key risks in the terms of reference may need attention. The likely impact of these weaknesses on the achievement of the key system, function or process objectives is not expected to be significant.
Limited Assurance	A number of key controls do not exist and/or are not applied consistently or effectively. This means that a number of the key risks in the terms of reference need attention. These weaknesses in the design and/or operation of key controls could impact upon achievement of key system, function or process objectives.
Minimal Assurance	A significant number of key controls do not exist and/or there are major omissions in the application of key controls. This means that a significant number of risks in the terms of reference are not being managed properly, which may put the achievement of the Council's objectives at risk.

Recommendation Risk Definitions

Priority	Definition
Critical	A top priority owing to a control weakness that has or could have a significant impact on the achievement of key system, function, or process objectives, and also the Council's objectives.
High	An important issue owing to a control weakness that has or could have a significant impact on the achievement of key system, function, or process objectives.
Medium	A control weakness that has or could have an impact on the achievement of the key system, function or process objectives. An issue, which, if addressed, would contribute towards raising the standard of internal control.

Low

A minor issue which does not impact upon the achievement of key system, function or process objectives. However implementation of the recommendation would improve overall control or help to reduce a minor level of non-compliance with an existing control process.

REPORT

WARRINGTON
Borough Council



Report to:	Schools Forum	Item:	3
Date:	January 2017	For:	Decision
Title:	Funding of Teacher Trade Union Facilities Time 17/18		
Author:	Sarah Whittaker	Presenter:	Sarah Whittaker/Julie Holt

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Schools Forum of the impact of the withdrawal of secondary academy contributions on the funding of trade union facilities time for teaching trade unions in Warrington from April 2017.
- 1.2 This paper outlines the options available to schools forum to address the reduction in funding which will provide a sustainable solution going forward.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Trade union representatives in schools are entitled to reasonable paid time off during working hours to take part in trade union duties. This is known as facility time and this entitlement is set out in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and Acas Code of Practice on time off for trade union duties and activities. Warrington schools have historically agreed through Schools Forum to de-delegate funding for the provision of trade union facilities time for teacher trade unions.
- 2.2 In April 2016 a report was presented to both WAPH and WASCL groups which set out the background to the calculation of teacher trade union facilities time, the funding arrangements and the clear benefits to schools of participating in pooled arrangements for teacher TU facilities time. This report was presented following a Schools Forum meeting held in March 2016 where the decision to de-delegate funds or otherwise was deferred pending more information.
- 2.3 The report outlined how participation in the collective arrangements for the funding of trade union facilities time offered a means of ensuring that schools met their legal obligations with minimum disruption, alongside an opportunity to build upon existing positive relationships with local trade union representatives to support the resolution of casework effectively, and at the lowest possible level.
- 2.4 Following the presentation of this report all maintained (primary and secondary as were at the time) schools confirmed their agreement to the de-delegation of funds from the DSG in order to continue with the existing pooled arrangement for trade union facilities time. All secondary academies bar two, however, determined that they would not participate in these pooled arrangements. This resulted in a £24,357

reduction in the funding available for teacher trade union facilities time from April 2016.

- 2.5 On this basis it has been necessary to review teacher trade union facilities time in view of reduced de-delegated funding and reduced qualifying membership numbers for each trade union as a result of those schools exiting the arrangement.
- 2.6 A number of meetings have been held with regional and local trade union representatives from those trade unions qualifying for funded facilities time under the teacher trade union element of the facilities agreement, and they have been informed of the options proposed to schools forum to address this issue.

3. REVIEW OF TEACHER TRADE UNION FACILITIES TIME

- 3.1 Facilities time is currently calculated as set out in the Local Authority's Facilities Agreement which was agreed in January 2013. This is a collective agreement covering all recognised trade unions across the Local Authority.
- 3.2 The facilities time to which each trade union is entitled is calculated in accordance with the membership numbers of the respective trade unions in those establishments participating in the local facilities time arrangements. This is taken from updated membership figures provided by the respective trade unions to the Local Authority every year.
- 3.3 Based on membership numbers, a full time equivalent (FTE) value is calculated for each trade union in line with the Council's facilities agreement, and on this basis a representative is seconded from their substantive role within a school, either entirely or on a part time basis. This calculation is based upon the membership numbers across participating schools as shown in figure 1.

MEMBERSHIP	FTE
0-250	as and when required
251-500	0.25
501-750	0.5
751-1000	0.75
1001-1250	1
1251-1500	1.25
1501-1750	1.5
1751-2000	1.75
2001-2250	2
2251-2500	2.25

Figure 1 – Facilities time allocated based on membership under the 2012 TUFA

- 3.4 Applying these principles, and prior to the withdrawal of almost all secondary academies from the shared arrangement, facilities time for each trade union was calculated as follows:

NUT 0.75 FTE (including representation for H&S inspections)
 NASUWT 1 FTE (including representation for H&S inspections)
 AtL 0.25 FTE (although there was no elected representative for this locally at the time)

NAHT As and when required
ASCL As and when required

3.5 Following confirmation from the majority of secondary academies that they would no longer participate in the pooled facilities time arrangements, those trade unions eligible for facilities time were asked to provide updated membership figures which excluded membership in secondary academies. Figure 2 below shows the anticipated revised facilities time allocations for April 2017:

TRADE UNION	MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS	BAND	17/18 FACILITIES TIME FTE	PREVIOUS BAND	16/17 FACILITIES TIME FTE	VARIANCE (+/-)
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	281	251-500	0.25 FTE	251-500 (466)	0.25FTE	No change
National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers	906	751-1000	0.75FTE	1001-1250 (1188)	1 FTE	-0.25 FTE
National Union of Teachers	801	751-1000	0.75 FTE	751-1000 (956)	0.75FTE	No change

Figure 2 – Anticipated facilities time eligibility based on membership in participating schools

3.6 This represents a total 0.25FTE reduction in teacher trade union facilities time as a result of the withdrawal of secondary academy schools from the pooled arrangement.

4 FUNDING OF TRADE UNION FACILITIES TIME

4.1 All Warrington schools, irrespective of their relationship with the Authority (i.e. maintained or Academy school) receive an average £3.67 per mainstream pupil in their annual budget allocation, as delegation of the funding formerly retained for trade union facilities time. Numbers on Roll is the closest proxy indicator to staff numbers – there is likely to be a broadly proportional relationship between the number of pupils at the school and the number of teachers. When de-delegation has been agreed by the LA maintained schools sectors, broadly it is equal to the current delegated funding in that year’s budget.

4.2 The level of de-delegated funds for Trade Union Facilities Time it is anticipated will be received from April 2017 (based on current levels of participation) is approximately £84,540. This makes the assumption that all schools that convert to academy status will pay into this arrangement for the full 17/18 financial year.

4.3 The anticipated cost of teacher trade union facilities time from April 2017 based on the current uptake of facility time 0.75FTE NUT and 0.25 FTE AtL and an assumed 0.75FTE uptake of NASUWT from April 2017, including on costs, is £80,335.

4.4 In addition, there is currently one trade union official from Warrington appointed to their trade union’s national executive on behalf of the region. Their time undertaking this

activity is currently funded from the facilities budget, in line with our current facilities agreement, at a cost of £38,117.

- 4.5 The total cost of teacher trade union facilities time is therefore £118,453 leading to an annual shortfall of £33,914 in the de-delegated funding.

5 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR

- 5.1 There have been some changes in trade union representation locally which have contributed to a reduction in the anticipated in year spend for 2016/17.

- 5.2 These include:

- Resignation of 0.2 fte local AtL representative with effect from the end of August 2015 who was not replaced by another seconded representative across Warrington until later in 2016.
- Retirement of a 0.75fte NASUWT representative at the end of the 2015/16 academic year who will only be replaced by a 0.1fte local Warrington representative from 1 September 2016 and another casual representative from out of borough who is working on a flexible basis for no more than 1 ½ days per week (0.3fte) from 1 November.

- 5.3 On this basis, anticipated spend for teacher trade union facilities time this year is £101,885. This represents a £17,346 overspend from the facilities budget of £84,540 for this year. This overspend would have been greater had AtL and NASUWT taken their full entitlement to facilities time over the course of the full financial year.

6 OPTIONS FOR 2017/18

- 6.1 In order to ensure that the current arrangements for providing Facility Time to Trade Unions benefiting all contributing schools in Warrington remains financially sustainable going forward, the following options have been identified for consideration by schools forum.

6.2 OPTION 1 - Cessation of funding for National Executive Duties

- 6.2.1 Historically Warrington has funded the election of local representatives to act on the national executive in a seconded basis for their respective trade union in line with the discretionary provision for this within the current Facilities Agreement. Currently, one local trade union representative is funded for this purpose, on behalf and for the benefit of Trade Union members across this region. Trade Union colleagues are all of the view that these secondments are important both in ensuring that the regional voice of teachers and schools are heard nationally, and in enabling intelligence to be passed back to schools in the region through the seconded member of staff

- 6.2.2 Section 8.2 (v) of the Facilities Agreement confirms that funding for this purpose is at the discretion of the Assistant Director, Human Resources:

- (i) "In the event that a WBC trade union representative/official is appointed to the national executive of a recognised Trade Union, additional facilities time may be granted. This will be subject to separate consultation with the Assistant

Director, Human Resources. Account will be taken of individual circumstances and the substantive allocation granted to that particular trade union.”

6.2.3 Cessation of funding for the local National Executive appointee would mean that the current level of de-delegated funding would be adequate based on an overall uptake of facility time of 1.75 FTE by the Trade Unions, but would set a precedent in future secondments to National Executives being unable to be supported.

6.2.4 It may still be agreeable for a Warrington Local Trade Union representative to have reasonable time to undertake National Executive duties, provided that this was part of, and not additional to, the facilities time allocated to that trade union under the calculation in the facilities agreement.

6.3 OPTION 2 - Cap on refunds to schools for seconded officials

6.3.1 Under current arrangements, schools employing officials who are seconded to undertake trade union duties receive a refund from the facilities 'pot' equivalent to the salary of the seconded official plus on costs, in order to pay for cover arrangements during their absence.

6.3.2 Where seconded trade union representatives are UPS3 teachers a refund to the school at this level could exceed the cost of paying for cover arrangements i.e. the teacher/supply teacher covering the seconded teacher may be lower down the payscale.

6.3.3 One option is for schools forum to consider the principle that refunds to employing schools will instead be paid at a standard mid-point rate on the teachers' pay scale, for example MPS 6. In this example, 1.75FTE trade union representatives would reduce the cost to £72,902 which would provide greater contingency for any reduction in the overall funding levels. (This does not take account of additional funding that would still be required additionally for National Executive member as per 6.2).

6.4 OPTION 3 - Increase per pupil charges

6.4.1 Currently, participating schools de-delegate £3.67 per pupil in contribution to the trade union facilities time budget. As stated as paragraph 4.5, based on the current arrangements of a refund policy of full cost recovery to the employing schools of seconded officials and the continuation of funding the national executive release time, de-delegation at this per pupil rate results in a £33,914 shortfall.

6.4.2 Schools forum may consider increasing per pupil contributions to bridge any potential shortfall in the funding for trade union facilities time.

6.4.3 An increase in per pupil contributions to £4.00 per pupil (an additional 0.33p per pupil, for example, would provide an additional £6,933 per year to provide some contingency in the pooled arrangement.

6.5 OPTION 4 - Review of the Trade Union Facilities Agreement (TUFA)

- 6.5.1 The existing TUFA was last agreed with all recognised trade unions in January 2013. The existing agreement covers both teaching and support staff, and the calculation of membership vs. facilities time contained within it (see section 3.4 above) applies to both sets of trade unions. The TUFA has operated well since its implementation and has remained in place following notification from secondary academies of their intention not to contribute to the pooled arrangements.
- 6.5.2 One option to address the shortfall in funding for facilities time at the current level is to review the trade union facilities agreement, in particular the calculation of teacher trade union facilities time by membership to ensure that spend comes within the anticipated financial envelope. Based on the existing funding arrangements for the support and teaching staff trade unions, it is likely that this would result in the establishment of two separate facilities agreements, one for support staff trade unions and another for teaching, and a reduction in overall facility time to meet the reduction in overall funding.
- 6.5.4 A review of the facilities agreement will necessitate a period of significant consultation with recognised trade union representatives for both teaching and support staff, in line with the existing scheduled consultation arrangements, and is unlikely to be achieved until mid-April 2017 at the very earliest.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that schools forum consider the options presented to them in this paper and make a decision on an approach to addressing the shortfall in trade union facilities time. The decision should provide for sustainability in the funding of facilities time moving forward, allowing schools to continue benefiting from arrangements that have worked well for both schools and staff. Schools forum may wish to consider a combination of these options in order to ensure contingency moving forward, for example:

<i>Increase in per pupil charge to £4.00</i>	£6,993
Total facilities budget	£91,553 (from £84,540)
Cap on school refunds to M6	£72,902
Contingency	£18,631

- 7.2 It is also recommended that the funding levels are reviewed upon withdrawal from or re-participation in, the arrangement by any schools and reported to schools forum as appropriate. In future, all schools will be asked to provide confirmation that they wish to continue in the arrangement for the forthcoming year by the end of September in each financial year.

REPORT

Report to: Schools Forum

Item: 4

Date: 10th January 2017

For: Information /
Decision

Title: DSG Budget Update 2017/18

Author: Garry Bradbury

Presenter: Garry Bradbury

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is the funding stream which supports individual school budgets, plus funding for many non-school educational activities. This grant is accounted for on a financial year basis, and is received by Local Authorities in 25 instalments. Since the 2013/14 settlement, DSG has been determined in specific blocks, although Authorities are presently at liberty, with Schools Forum agreement, to transfer funding between blocks if the notional allocations are inappropriate for locally determined priorities (though please note the comments in sections 3.1 & 3.2).

1.2 The way in which the Department for Education (DfE) present the allocation is as follows:

- i) Schools Block – intended to support mainstream activities in primary and secondary schools (i.e. basic school delegated budgets)
- ii) Early Years Block – intended to support nursery provision in dedicated nursery schools, nurseries attached to mainstream schools, and private, voluntary or independent nursery providers within the Authority's boundaries.
- iii) High Needs Block – intended to support special school budgets, Pupil Referral Units, designated/specialist provision in mainstream schools, pupil placement in independent schools or non-mainstream special schools outside of the home Authority. It also funds all Special Educational Needs requirements for Warrington pupils. Any other whole-school activities should likewise be funded by this block, as there is presently no specific allocation for central education functions (this is proposed for implementation from 2018/19 onwards).

- iv) Additions/variations to Blocks ii and iii
- 1.3 The Schools Block is determined by a flat rate (different for each Authority) for each mainstream student on roll at the October census prior to the funding year e.g. October 2016 for the 2017/18 settlement.
- 1.4 Early Years funding for 3 and 4 year olds is similar to the Schools Block, except that the total pupil numbers from the previous January Early Years census are taken. Because moderated and validated figures from the newest census are not available in time, year-old data are used, with the actual allocation modified some months later (June, generally) to reflect the updated pupil count. Thus, the initial 2017/18 Early Years block notification is an indicative figure based upon pupil numbers from January 2016. The introduction of the extended 30-hour nursery entitlement in September 2017, the evolving take-up of the two-year old offer, and a requirement to estimate qualification for Early Years pupil premium mean that this Block is now, in many ways, the most volatile of the three funding blocks.
- 1.5 High Needs Block allocations are incremental from a baseline, flexed for pupil number growth. These baselines depend on previous funding, which in turn derives from reported spends of Authorities from periods predating subdivisions of DSG. This current methodology results in significant flaws, and is one of the reasons for funding reform proposals with a move towards a more formulaic method of calculation. LAs' most recent actual allocations of DSG to High Needs spending i.e. after accounting for any relevant block transfers, has been used this year to recalculate the baseline (as discussed in section 3.1).
- 1.6 This initial announcement includes the funding for all Warrington Academy and Free Schools because their individual budget formula calculations are cast on the same basis as the maintained schools sector (although their financial years are not contiguous). The value of their budget allocations, plus a determined amount from High Needs, will subsequently be recouped from the funding coming into the Local Authority, and passed directly to the Academies in their General Annual Grant (GAG).

2. INITIAL DSG ALLOCATION FOR 2017/18

- 2.1 Block allocations, and therefore an overall DSG settlement, for individual Local Authorities were revealed by the Education Funding Agency (EFA), on 20th December 2016.
- 2.2 The Early Years Block allocation is obviously not yet updated for the January 2017 census; and an assumption has been made for take-up of the extended 30-hour offer beginning September 2017. The Schools Block is revised to reflect: a) updated pupil numbers; b) changes to the baseline (see section 3.1); and c) the

inclusion of the Retained Duties element of Education Services Grant (a *per capita* increase of £15).

2.3 The table below shows the individual block allocations, and for comparative purposes, the equivalent figures for 2016/17.

	17/18			16/17		
	£ value	CENSUS NOR	ALLOCATION £	£ value	CENSUS NOR	ALLOCATION £
Schools Block	£4,279.35	29,316	125,453,000	£4,244.36	29,048	123,290,000
Early Years Block (3/4 year olds)	£4,084.96	2,050	8,374,985	£3,333.72	2,025	6,751,000
Early Years Block (3/4 30 hr entitlement) – September to March	£4,084.96	676	1,611,614			
Early Years Block (2 yr. olds)	£5,015.92	406	2,037,299	£4,683.50	418	1,958,000
<u>High Needs Block</u>						
Baseline (revised)			19,768,000			20,480,000
Post-16 transfer			636,000			
Population-based uplift			365,288			352,000
Population growth uplift			107,586			21,000
HN places direct funding			-1,462,000			-1,146,000
			19,414,874			19,707,000
<u>Additions</u>						
NQT induction						42,000
Nursery School Protection			71,174			
EY Disability Access Fund			43,050			
Early Years Pupil Premium			98,817			140,416
			213,041			182,000
Total DSG (before Academy recoupments)			157,104,813			151,888,000

2.4 Pupil numbers have increased, mostly in the primary sector to 17,727 FTE from 17,500 FTE. There is a bottom line increase of 40 FTE in the secondary sector compared to last year, although this includes the students at a newly-opened provision at the UTC. Designated Provision numbers are excluded from the Schools Block calculation, as they are funded from High Needs.

2.5 There has been a small amount of growth in High Needs funding, resulting from an additional £130m added to the national allocation to reflect population expansion.

3. SCHOOL BUDGETS 2017/18

3.1 Unlike previous years, the EFA did not require a draft proposal for the mainstream school budget funding formula in October, but neither did they impose any changes on the regulatory framework. As a precursor to the

implementation of the National Fair Funding (NFF) Formula (although obviously this ended up being delayed), the EFA conducted a baselining exercise to establish how the current year block funding was actually deployed. This meant that the transfers of funding from High Needs Block to Early Years (to support the historic underfunding of this sector), and from Schools Block to High Needs (to accommodate the establishment of the SEN contingency fund) have become parts of the respective baselines. Despite the NFF delay, these baselines have become the starting point for block calculation, in the case of High Needs, and in deriving a new Unit of Funding for Schools Block. Unfortunately this has had an unforeseen negative impact on the total amount received as explained in 3.3 below.

- 3.2 The establishment of the contingency was also utilised to create a starting position for a new Central Block of DSG, as this is intended to be split out from High Needs upon the implementation of NFF.
- 3.3 The creation of the SEN contingency fund, which required a transfer from Schools Block to High Needs Block to implement, has had the unfortunate consequence that while that proportion of funding remains in Warrington's overall settlement, it is no longer considered part of the Schools Block baseline. This means that we do not receive growth on that proportion of funding based on the increase in pupil numbers between 2016/17 and 2017/18. While the delay in implementing NFF means that LAs retain, for another year, the freedom to transfer block funding if Forum agrees, there is a need to be mindful of recent experience and potential consequences for future allocations.
- 3.4 Early Years funding reform has run in parallel with that of schools and high needs, indeed the DfE consultation for Early Years was both launched and resolved while Authorities were awaiting stage 2 of consultation for the former. The outcome, and Warrington's intended response, is discussed in more detail in Section 5 of this report, but because of the application of a *de minimis* level of funding, Warrington's allocation has been levelled up, disregarding the calculated baseline. Consequently, the 2016/17 transfer of £266,744 from High Needs block to Early Years block has not affected the Early Years allocation in 2017/18, but it has correspondingly reduced our High Needs baseline.
- 3.5 The implementation of NFF, and its implications for longer-term schools' funding, will be discussed more specifically at the next Schools Forum meeting. But inevitably, with the requirement to submit our 2017/18 formula model on or before 20th January, Forum should consider in broad terms how it should inform the 2017/18 submission. Whatever the specifics of its final form, there is a brief period during which local discretion diminishes, but at the same time, to reduce turbulence, we know we need to begin to move towards this final form.
- 3.6 The need to move forward was discussed at Formula Working Group (FWG), although this predated the specifics of the Stage 2 consultation. Set out below are

the principles that are suggested should be applied, either through FWG agreement, or Accountancy's interpretation of the 'signals' from the consultation:

1. Do not divert funding to SEN contingency
2. As NFF includes a significant low-cost high incidence SEN prior-attainment proxy, the equivalent funding from the SEN contingency, and funding generated by pupil number growth be used to reintroduce this factor (for the primary sector), and to increase its value (secondary sector)
3. Funding freed through the reduction of the Minimum Funding Guarantee 'bill' added to the basic per pupil element for both sectors.
4. The addition to LA funding of £15 per student for the former-ESG element is replicated in an identical addition to individual schools' per pupil funding.
5. Move towards the NFF suggestion of a higher KS4 per pupil funding rate, and a lower KS3 per pupil funding rate, by moving £75 between the respective values.
6. No change to deprivation funding values, as the factor driver, free school meal entitlement, is not radically different from last year (2016/17: 2,991, 2017/18: 2,971)

The overall effects of these proposals is summarised below:

Summary of Changes			Net Effect		ADDITIONAL or RECIRCULATED funding?	
Primary Sector	AWPU	£15.00	Education Services Grant delegated	£225,152		ADDITIONAL
	AWPU	£19.33	MFG reduction recirculated	£290,137		RECIRCULATED
	LPA	£86.80	SEN Contingency reallocated to move towards NFF	£382,982		RECIRCULATED
	LPA	£53.14	DSG increase for pupil growth to move towards NFF	£236,573		ADDITIONAL
Secondary Sector	AWPU	£15.00	Education Services Grant delegated	£171,572		ADDITIONAL
	AWPU	£4.98	MFG reduction recirculated	£56,973		RECIRCULATED
	AWPU	£45.67	DSG increase for pupil growth	£509,785		
	AWPU KS3	-£75.00	Change of AWPU to move towards NFF	-£525,526		
	AWPU KS4	£75.00	Change of AWPU to move towards NFF	£332,249	£316,508	ADDITIONAL
LPA	£78.30	SEN Contingency reallocated	£155,589		RECIRCULATED	

The effect of these on individual school allocations can be seen in **Appendix 1**. Please note this does not show the final school budget proposal for 2017/18; just the Schools Block mainstream elements. High Needs High Cost Low Incidence (Element 3) top-ups and nursery funding, where appropriate, will be updated with the latest data, and informed by recommendations Forum will make surrounding these areas.

In addition to principles 1-6, depending on the decisions taken when discussing agenda item 7, a further revision may be necessary to 'top slice' budgets overall.

- 3.7 The individual school budgets are shown in **Appendix 1**. The models aggregate to £74,455,574 in the primary sector, and £57,769,598 in the secondary sector (both before recoupment and de-delegation).

Within these, the elements of funding from the Schools Block total £125,453,448, which represents 100% of the 2017/18 Block allocation being pass-ported to schools (as detailed in section 2.3):

- £69,293,918 to Primary Schools.
- £56,159,530 to Secondary Schools

4. **DE-DELEGATION DECISIONS**

- 4.1 It is a part of the current financial framework that the notional allocations within the overall delegation of maintained schools' budgets for some central and collective services may, with Forum approval, be returned to the LA to continue service provision, via a process of 'de-delegation'. The decision for each of this range of services must be reviewed annually by Forum members representing each of the maintained school phases. A majority decision for or against de-delegation is binding on each school in the respective phase. Phases may adopt a different decision for each of the potentially de-delegated items.

- 4.2 **Appendix 2** illustrates the current position regarding de-delegations, and shows the claw back effect on maintained school budgets in 2017/18 for each setting if delegation was to be agreed. The SIMS license de-delegation is shown for completeness, but schools have already committed to continued de-delegation for the lifetime of the new system contract with Capita. This item will not therefore be under review.

- 4.3 The individual de-delegated items are described briefly below.

Contingency budgets

- **Pupil Number Increases:** Following the annual (previous) October census on which budgets are calculated, pupils continue to come and go from schools during the year. This contingency allows those mainstream schools that admit exceptional numbers of additional pupils to receive additional funding (triggered by numbers increases of 2.5% and above, the additional pupils being funded at the basic per-pupil rate). This helps to insulate the school against the cost pressures until

the additional pupils can be reflected in the following year's budget allocation.

- Additional classes: Due to changes in pupil populations there are times at which a school needs to employ additional teachers, or at minimum, deploy additional learning resources. Schools Forum has established a methodology under which schools are reimbursed for above-normal admissions (a standard per pupil rate for up to 5 additional admissions, with funding for a teaching post for additional admissions of 5 and over). Present contingency terms of reference apply only to KS1 classes, but this may be varied with the consent of Schools Forum.

The overall underspend position of these two contingencies (currently only held by the primary sector) forms part of the proposals to be discussed in agenda item 7 this evening, so the decisions taken there may inform the de-delegation decision for next year.

Miscellaneous Licences

A range of smaller subscriptions and licences including some remaining copyright licences, Health Protection Radiation Protection Adviser Service, Fischer Family Trust, and other *ad hoc* arrangements.

CLEAPS

This pays for support to schools to ensure that the science curriculum is delivered safely.

Free School Meals Assessment

This budget funds the cost of assessing if a family is eligible for free school meals.

Teachers' Panel and Union Duties

This budget funds the facilities time of union representatives in relation to the work they do with schools and on behalf of their members who are employed by schools. It ensures that union representatives are able to engage in consultation and policy development with the Council, covers the costs of individual casework and also covers the time that union representatives give to health and safety visits to schools. Many of these representatives have substantive roles in a number of schools, and this fund reimburses their opportunity costs. The Facilities Agreement and its financial implications is also a separate agenda item this evening (item no 3), so it is expected that the de-delegation decision will be dependent on the outcome of that debate.

Maternity/Paternity/Adoption Costs

This budget covers the cost of staff members' salaries whilst on these forms of leave from school. By de-delegating this budget, schools pick up only the cost of cover arrangements, not the total of this **and** the substantive salary combined.

5. EARLY YEARS FUNDING 2017/18

- 5.1 In recent years, Early Years block funding, like that of the Schools Block, was based upon a flat rate applied to child numbers from the Census, this flat rate being different for each LA. Warrington's funding rate was the eighth lowest in the country, roughly equating to a funding rate of £3.60 per hour. The lagged nature of this funding added an additional pressure, with take-up rates increasing over the course of the year, particularly in the private, voluntary and independent sectors. Consequently, to render our agreed sector hourly funding rates affordable, funding has been transferred from High Needs in each of the last four financial years, aggregating to £805,787 over that period as follows:

2016/17	£266,744
2015/16	£186,352
2014/15	£203,795
2013/14	£148,896
Total	£805,787

- 5.2 The response from DfE following the Consultation suggested that from 2017/18, Warrington's funding rate would increase to £4.27 per hour, with a requirement to implement that rate fully across all sectors in 2018/19. Publication of the DSG allocations brought the news that a floor rate minimum of £4.30 would be implemented, with Warrington's funding rate brought up to that level. So ironically, although the funding rate has been increased, rather than being individually the 8th worst funded Authority, Warrington would be jointly the worst-funded (albeit sharing this distinction with 46 others).
- 5.3 DfE has applied a number of conditions on funding which affect how this funding is allocated at a local level:
- At least 93% of the funding rate has to be pass-ported to all settings – in Warrington's case this means a minimum rate of £4.00/hour. This rises to 95% in 2018/19 (equivalent to £4.09)
 - By 2019/20, the funding rate passed to all settings must be the same, and at least 95% of the LA rate of funding.
 - Protection for maintained nursery schools and disability access funding to be allocated outside of the hourly rate.
 - Restricted number of supplements, though a deprivation supplement remains mandatory.

- e) No minimum pass-porting rate for 2-year old funding – this element of funding is already allocated on a universal hourly rate basis.
- f) LAs are required to create a SEN contingency fund for Early Years – though no prescription on amounts or criteria are imposed.

5.4 Mindful of these requirements, Warrington is proposing to adopt a future-proofed model covering the rest of the funding cycle i.e. the period 2017/18 to 2020/21. We will maintain the deprivation supplement (reduced to 2p/hr), but Warrington’s only other supplement (SEN) is applied to every child, so is effectively part of the hourly rate anyway and therefore it is logical to officially subsume it in the future hourly rates.

Given the pressures on High Needs funding, and the negative impact on the baseline that the block transfer between High Needs and Early Years has had, it is proposed, over this period, to repay about 80% of this support, using part of the increase of funding Warrington will receive. These transfers had been agreed on the basis that if additional funding became available, the commitment would be reviewed, but it is not until this point we have had this opportunity.

	2016/17	2017/18 2018/19 2019/20 2020/21				
		Proposed Rates				
PVIs/Childminders*	£3.22 / £3.32	£4.00	£4.17	£4.25	£4.25	
Maintained Nursery Classes	£4.28	£4.28	£4.28	£4.25	£4.25	
Sandy Lane **	£5.46	£4.30	£4.30	£4.25	£4.25	
2 year old	£4.85	£4.89	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	
		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	TOTAL
High Needs Contribution		£520,081	£58,751	£30,447	£30,447	£639,726
Vulnerable Pupils / SEN Support Plus/ Portage		£143,482	£225,541	£168,932	£168,932	£706,886
		£663,563	£284,292	£199,379	£199,379	£1,346,613

3/4 Year Old Retention Percentage

4.0% **2.1%** **1.1%** **1.1%**

2 Year Old Retention Percentage

7.4% **5.3%** **5.3%** **5.3%**

* 2p/hr deprivation supplement on top of these rates, where applicable

** Maintained Nursery School grant protection during this projection period

NB: Percentage of HN transfer to EY block 2013-2016 repaid 79.39%

Forum will note that the eventual (2019/20) Universal base rate of £4.25 represents 98.8% of funding, comfortably exceeding the minimum pass-porting requirement of 95% (£4.09), a rate which would substantially reduce funding for mainstream nursery classes and considered unjustifiable with funding overall increasing. Broadly speaking, the retention for 3 and 4 year old funding is funding

“a High Needs repayment”, while the retention from the 2 year old funding is supporting: the continuation of the portage service; an increase in the SEN Support Plus ‘pot’; and continuation of support for vulnerable 2 year olds. This approach is consistent with DFE requirement for LAs to create a SEN Contingency fund for Early Years.

On current 2016/17 data, this would deliver sector funding as outlined below (current year budget shown for comparison)

	2017/18 Proposed Allocation	2016/17 Budgets
Maintained Nurseries	£2,528,426	£2,528,414
Sandy Lane Nursery Early Years function	£238,262	£308,085
Maintained Nursery School protection	£71,174	
Central Early Years Functions	£ -	£6,245
Private, Voluntary & Independent providers	£5,270,288	£4,175,000
TOTAL EARLY YEARS	£8,108,150	£7,017,744

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- (i) Note the contents of the report;
- (ii) Approve each of the funding principles for mainstream school budgets, as outlined in section 3.6;
- (iii) Approve the Early Years hourly rate proposals outlined in section 5.4; and
- (iv) Sector representatives from the maintained sectors are asked, for each phase, to decide which funding streams are to be de-delegated for 2017/18. Further, for any existing de-delegations that are decided should be set aside, to suggest the alternative arrangements that should therefore be implemented.

Appendix 2: Effect of current dedelegation decisions

		Pupil No	Classes	SIMS Licence	Misc Licence	CLEAPS	FSM Ass	Tchrs Panel	Matty	TOTAL
CC	Name	24.69	3,077.35	1,453.60	2.19	0.35	2.47	3.67	22.32	
35001	Bewsey Lodge	£5,950.29	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£527.79	£84.35	£595.27	£884.47	£5,379.12	£17,952
35002	Dallam	£4,641.72	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£411.72	£65.80	£464.36	£689.96	£4,196.16	£15,001
35004	Meadowside	£5,308.35	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£470.85	£75.25	£531.05	£789.05	£4,798.80	£16,504
35005	Oakwood Avenue	£13,456.05	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£1,193.55	£190.75	£1,346.15	£2,000.15	£12,164.40	£34,882
35006	Fairfield	£9,505.65	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£843.15	£134.75	£950.95	£1,412.95	£8,593.20	£25,972
35007	St Andrew's	£4,715.79	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£418.29	£66.85	£471.77	£700.97	£4,263.12	£15,168
35008	St Ann's	£4,888.62	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£433.62	£69.30	£489.06	£726.66	£4,419.36	£15,558
35009	St Barnabas	£4,888.62	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£433.62	£69.30	£489.06	£726.66	£4,419.36	£15,558
35010	St Margaret's	£10,616.70	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£941.70	£150.50	£1,062.10	£1,578.10	£9,597.60	£28,478
35011	Our Lady's	£4,715.79	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£418.29	£66.85	£471.77	£700.97	£4,263.12	£15,168
35012	Sacred Heart	£4,913.31	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£435.81	£69.65	£491.53	£730.33	£4,441.68	£15,613
35013	St Alban's	£4,666.41	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£413.91	£66.15	£466.83	£693.63	£4,218.48	£15,056
35014	St Augustine's	£3,629.43	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£321.93	£51.45	£363.09	£539.49	£3,281.04	£12,717
35015	St Benedict's	£5,086.14	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£451.14	£72.10	£508.82	£756.02	£4,597.92	£16,003
35016	St Stephen's	£5,160.21	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£457.71	£73.15	£516.23	£767.03	£4,664.88	£16,170
35017	Appleton Thorn	£5,012.07	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£444.57	£71.05	£501.41	£745.01	£4,530.96	£15,836
35018	Appleton The Cobbs	£6,518.16	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£578.16	£92.40	£652.08	£968.88	£5,892.48	£19,233
35019	Appleton Broomfields	£9,061.23	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£803.73	£128.45	£906.49	£1,346.89	£8,191.44	£24,969
35020	Appleton St Monica's	£4,962.69	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£440.19	£70.35	£496.47	£737.67	£4,486.32	£15,725
35021	Grappenhall St Wilfrids	£10,271.04	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£911.04	£145.60	£1,027.52	£1,526.72	£9,285.12	£27,698
35022	Grappenhall Bradshaw	£4,913.31	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£435.81	£69.65	£491.53	£730.33	£4,441.68	£15,613
35023	Stockton Heath St Thomas	£5,160.21	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£457.71	£73.15	£516.23	£767.03	£4,664.88	£16,170
35024	Stockton Heath	£9,357.51	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£830.01	£132.65	£936.13	£1,390.93	£8,459.28	£25,637
35025	Stretton St Matthew's	£5,012.07	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£444.57	£71.05	£501.41	£745.01	£4,530.96	£15,836
35026	Thelwall Jnrs	£3,999.78	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£354.78	£56.70	£400.14	£594.54	£3,615.84	£13,553
35027	Thelwall Infants	£3,061.56	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£271.56	£43.40	£306.28	£455.08	£2,767.68	£11,437
35028	Lymm Statham	£4,740.48	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£420.48	£67.20	£474.24	£704.64	£4,285.44	£15,223
35029	Lymm Cherry Tree	£5,258.97	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£466.47	£74.55	£526.11	£781.71	£4,754.16	£16,393
35030	Lymm Ravenbank	£10,098.21	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£895.71	£143.15	£1,010.23	£1,501.03	£9,128.88	£27,308
35031	Lymm Oughtrington	£10,345.11	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£917.61	£146.65	£1,034.93	£1,537.73	£9,352.08	£27,865
35032	Glazebury	£2,296.17	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£203.67	£32.55	£229.71	£341.31	£2,075.76	£9,710
35033	Culcheth	£5,258.97	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£466.47	£74.55	£526.11	£781.71	£4,754.16	£16,393
35034	Culcheth Newchurch	£5,209.59	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£462.09	£73.85	£521.17	£774.37	£4,709.52	£16,282
35035	Culcheth Twiss Green	£5,209.59	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£462.09	£73.85	£521.17	£774.37	£4,709.52	£16,282
35036	St Paul of the Cross	£4,271.37	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£378.87	£60.55	£427.31	£634.91	£3,861.36	£14,165
35037	Burtonwood	£5,012.07	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£444.57	£71.05	£501.41	£745.01	£4,530.96	£15,836
35038	Christ Church	£7,826.73	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£694.23	£110.95	£782.99	£1,163.39	£7,075.44	£22,185

		Pupil No	Classes	SIMS Licence	Misc Licence	CLEAPS	FSM Ass	Tchrs Panel	Matty	TOTAL
35039	Padgate St Oswald's	£5,234.28	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£464.28	£74.20	£523.64	£778.04	£4,731.84	£16,337
35040	Brook Acre	£5,481.18	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£486.18	£77.70	£548.34	£814.74	£4,955.04	£16,894
35042	St Bridget's	£5,333.04	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£473.04	£75.60	£533.52	£792.72	£4,821.12	£16,560
35043	Croft St Lewis	£4,888.62	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£433.62	£69.30	£489.06	£726.66	£4,419.36	£15,558
35044	Croft	£5,184.90	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£459.90	£73.50	£518.70	£770.70	£4,687.20	£16,226
35045	Locking Stumps	£8,369.91	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£742.41	£118.65	£837.33	£1,244.13	£7,566.48	£23,410
35047	Penketh St Joseph's	£7,382.31	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£654.81	£104.65	£738.53	£1,097.33	£6,673.68	£21,182
35048	Penketh St Vincent's	£6,147.81	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£545.31	£87.15	£615.03	£913.83	£5,557.68	£18,398
35049	Penketh South	£4,296.06	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£381.06	£60.90	£429.78	£638.58	£3,883.68	£14,221
35050	Woolston St Peter's	£5,308.35	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£470.85	£75.25	£531.05	£789.05	£4,798.80	£16,504
35051	Woolston CP	£5,629.32	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£499.32	£79.80	£563.16	£836.76	£5,088.96	£17,228
35052	Woolston CEP	£5,258.97	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£466.47	£74.55	£526.11	£781.71	£4,754.16	£16,393
35053	Great Sankey	£7,703.28	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£683.28	£109.20	£770.64	£1,145.04	£6,963.84	£21,906
35054	Chapelford	£12,641.28	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£1,121.28	£179.20	£1,264.64	£1,879.04	£11,427.84	£33,044
35055	Gt Sankey Park Road	£5,110.83	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£453.33	£72.45	£511.29	£759.69	£4,620.24	£16,059
35056	Gt Sankey Barrow Hall Lane	£13,727.64	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£1,217.64	£194.60	£1,373.32	£2,040.52	£12,409.92	£35,495
35057	Sankey Valley St James	£4,987.38	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£442.38	£70.70	£498.94	£741.34	£4,508.64	£15,780
35058	Hollinfare St Helen's	£3,407.22	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£302.22	£48.30	£340.86	£506.46	£3,080.16	£12,216
35059	Winwick	£4,592.34	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£407.34	£65.10	£459.42	£682.62	£4,151.52	£14,889
35060	Birchwood	£4,617.03	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£409.53	£65.45	£461.89	£686.29	£4,173.84	£14,945
35061	Gorse Covert	£7,555.14	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£670.14	£107.10	£755.82	£1,123.02	£6,829.92	£21,572
35062	Cinnamon Brow	£7,555.14	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£670.14	£107.10	£755.82	£1,123.02	£6,829.92	£21,572
35063	Old Hall	£10,172.28	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£902.28	£144.20	£1,017.64	£1,512.04	£9,195.84	£27,475
35064	Callands	£7,727.97	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£685.47	£109.55	£773.11	£1,148.71	£6,986.16	£21,962
35065	St Philips	£11,530.23	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£1,022.73	£163.45	£1,153.49	£1,713.89	£10,423.44	£30,538
35066	Grappenhall Heys	£5,184.90	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£459.90	£73.50	£518.70	£770.70	£4,687.20	£16,226
35067	Latchford	£4,617.03	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£409.53	£65.45	£461.89	£686.29	£4,173.84	£14,945
35068	Alderman Bolton CP	£7,011.96	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£621.96	£99.40	£701.48	£1,042.28	£6,338.88	£20,347
35070	Beamont Primary	£9,604.41	£3,077.35	£1,453.60	£851.91	£136.15	£960.83	£1,427.63	£8,682.48	£26,194
		£421,260.78	£203,105.10	£95,937.60	£37,365.78	£5,971.70	£42,143.14	£62,617.54	£380,823.84	£1,249,225

CC	Name			£1,453.60	£2.19	£0.35	£2.47	£3.67	£22.32	TOTAL
35103	Culcheth	-	-	£1,453.60	£2,437.47	£389.55	£2,749.11	£4,084.71	£24,842.16	£35,957
35107	St Gregory's	-	-	£1,453.60	£1,940.34	£310.10	£2,188.42	£3,251.62	£19,775.52	£28,920
35115	Sir Thomas Boteler	-	-	£1,453.60	£1,149.75	£183.75	£1,296.75	£1,926.75	£11,718.00	£17,729
35121	Newman	-	-	£1,453.60	£1,695.06	£270.90	£1,911.78	£2,840.58	£17,275.68	£25,448
		£0.00	£0.00	£5,814.40	£7,222.62	£1,154.30	£8,146.06	£12,103.66	£73,611.36	£108,052
		£421,261	£203,105	£101,752	£44,588	£7,126	£50,289	£74,721	£454,435	£1,357,278

Appendix 1: Draft Individual School Budgets 2017/18 - Primary Schools

	Basic Per Pupil	Deprivation	EAL	Low Cost, High Incidence SEN	High Cost, Low Incidence SEN	Lump Sum	Designated Provision	Early Years	TOTAL	Minimum Funding Guarantee	Revised TOTAL
Name	£2,822.36	£3,210.60	£370.45	£139.94	-	£156,677	-	-			
Bewsey Lodge	680,189	185,223	9,507	20,178	26,412	156,677	271,698	89,786	1,470,388	96,976	1,567,364
Dallam	530,604	216,382	9,949	16,509	15,027	156,677	408,824	90,479	1,460,411	12,930	1,473,341
Evelyn Street	654,788	176,583	6,400	14,632	7,875	156,677	0	72,246	1,092,298	87,809	1,180,107
Meadowside	606,807	204,417	4,337	16,044	42,615	156,677	271,698	78,405	1,398,041	112,229	1,510,270
Oakwood Avenue	1,538,187	418,088	5,951	35,667	31,227	156,677	301,170	156,288	2,650,983	0	2,650,983
St Elphin's	1,086,609	186,215	15,798	16,364	22,041	156,677	0	106,872	1,599,695	0	1,599,695
St Andrew's	539,071	189,425	2,184	14,832	4,211	156,677	0	0	908,800	8,514	917,314
St Ann's	558,828	125,213	6,588	16,859	20,000	156,677	0	88,378	975,351	59,707	1,035,058
St Barnabas'	558,828	147,687	9,114	14,586	7,218	156,677	0	83,897	980,911	0	980,911
St Margaret's	1,213,614	240,796	4,736	27,659	25,014	156,677	0	134,739	1,812,642	0	1,812,642
Our Lady's	539,071	89,897	7,626	12,128	36,966	156,677	0	78,910	924,084	0	924,084
Sacred Heart	561,649	83,476	16,429	10,018	6,098	156,677	0	0	837,371	0	837,371
St Alban's	533,427	51,369	20,874	14,483	12,976	156,677	0	75,940	869,130	0	869,130
St Augustine's	414,887	128,424	10,720	9,381	235	156,677	0	48,184	770,956	12,337	783,293
St Benedict's	581,406	64,212	8,238	13,648	350	156,677	0	92,979	921,662	0	921,662
St Stephen's	589,873	99,528	9,516	10,008	1,482	156,677	0	0	869,652	18,993	888,645
Appleton Thorn	572,939	6,421	845	7,015	51,829	156,677	0	0	813,606	0	813,606
The Cobbs Infants	745,104	41,738	556	8,233	10,552	156,677	0	205,966	1,194,026	0	1,194,026
Broomfields Junior	1,035,807	64,212	1,111	10,551	3,000	156,677	0	0	1,298,239	0	1,298,239
St Monica's	567,295	28,895	856	6,675	49,808	156,677	0	0	812,654	0	812,654
St Wilfrid's	1,174,102	6,421	3,896	10,054	7,221	156,677	0	0	1,364,371	0	1,364,371
Bradshaw	561,649	28,895	436	8,026	8,557	156,677	0	0	777,920	0	777,920
St Thomas'	589,873	44,948	3,028	5,860	17,015	156,677	0	66,678	888,255	0	888,255
Stockton Heath	1,069,675	35,317	4,388	12,981	44,020	156,677	0	0	1,361,697	0	1,361,697
Stretton St Matthew's	572,939	6,421	435	5,332	1,352	156,677	0	0	746,564	0	746,564
Thelwall Juniors	457,222	32,106	0	4,812	8,322	156,677	0	0	671,138	0	671,138
Thelwall Infants	349,972	22,474	0	4,613	7,711	156,677	0	0	553,207	0	553,207
Statham	541,894	35,317	3,018	5,641	12,926	156,677	0	0	769,632	0	769,632
Cherry Tree	601,163	35,317	862	7,740	33,529	156,677	0	0	852,448	0	852,448
Ravenbank	1,154,345	73,844	3,030	11,183	36,120	156,677	0	0	1,462,559	0	1,462,559
Oughtrington	1,182,569	28,895	431	8,494	30,858	156,677	0	0	1,436,964	0	1,436,964
Glazebury	262,479	25,685	436	2,677	1,717	156,677	0	0	452,071	511	452,582
Culcheth	601,163	64,212	1,360	9,043	12,081	156,677	0	0	858,457	0	858,457
Newchurch	595,517	25,685	1,296	5,895	0	156,677	0	0	799,470	0	799,470

	Basic Per Pupil	Deprivation	EAL	Low Cost, High Incidence SEN	High Cost, Low Incidence SEN	Lump Sum	Designated Provision	Early Years	TOTAL	Minimum Funding Guarantee	Revised TOTAL
Name	£2,822.36	£3,210.60	£370.45		-	£156,677	-	-			
Twiss Green	595,517	25,685	1,281	4,265	4,500	156,677	0	0	805,326	0	805,326
St Paul of the Cross	488,269	57,791	1,290	8,526	6,000	156,677	0	0	721,770	0	721,770
Burtonwood	572,939	64,212	0	10,249	5,828	156,677	0	0	825,745	0	825,745
Christ Church	894,689	138,056	1,305	13,308	12,729	156,677	0	93,270	1,314,977	0	1,314,977
St Oswald's	598,340	19,264	3,452	7,824	9,199	156,677	0	0	797,972	0	797,972
Brook Acre	626,564	308,217	4,712	15,782	8,458	156,677	0	101,393	1,240,763	0	1,240,763
St Bridget's	609,630	150,899	10,325	16,456	6,840	156,677	0	0	954,547	0	954,547
St Lewis'	558,828	48,159	1,257	6,374	14,968	156,677	0	0	788,783	0	788,783
Croft	592,696	38,528	0	7,470	7,500	156,677	0	0	819,550	0	819,550
Locking Stumps	956,781	122,002	6,021	14,606	21,669	156,677	0	0	1,302,716	0	1,302,716
Penketh	581,406	22,474	867	8,906	5,982	156,677	0	0	779,504	0	779,504
St Joseph's	843,885	9,631	1,259	8,553	12,203	156,677	0	0	1,035,544	0	1,035,544
St Vincent's	702,767	35,317	1,655	6,933	2,100	156,677	0	0	909,769	0	909,769
Penketh South	491,090	22,474	416	7,506	30,794	156,677	0	64,298	790,775	3,089	793,864
St Peter's	606,807	0	0	5,752	13,982	156,677	0	0	786,506	2,827	789,333
Woolston CP	643,498	74,442	3,280	10,477	5,799	156,677	139,368	0	1,062,581	0	1,062,581
Woolston CE	601,163	12,843	1,286	9,552	26,168	156,677	0	0	811,241	0	811,241
Great Sankey	880,576	48,159	2,588	8,629	6,000	156,677	0	106,559	1,249,747	0	1,249,747
Chapelford Village	1,445,048	109,161	4,909	19,041	39,468	156,677	0	0	1,823,264	0	1,823,264
Park Road	584,229	22,474	1,733	7,981	28,940	156,677	0	0	816,434	0	816,434
Barrow Hall	1,569,232	35,317	1,326	18,346	25,454	156,677	0	0	1,837,072	0	1,837,072
Sankey Valley St James'	570,116	93,107	7,831	11,638	5,958	156,677	0	83,550	933,126	86,501	1,019,627
Hollinfare St Helen's	389,486	22,474	433	7,888	10,857	156,677	0	0	590,480	0	590,480
Winwick	524,958	32,106	1,723	4,331	9,148	156,677	0	0	732,614	0	732,614
Birchwood	527,781	173,373	6,024	10,985	16,417	156,677	0	74,031	968,948	14,042	982,990
Gorse Covert	863,642	12,843	6,515	7,860	7,950	156,677	0	0	1,086,687	0	1,086,687
Cinnamon Brow	863,642	165,826	2,123	17,422	32,967	156,677	130,088	106,927	1,481,720	0	1,481,720
Old Hall	1,162,812	48,159	12,141	12,386	19,851	156,677	0	0	1,443,706	0	1,443,706
Callands	883,399	67,423	7,730	14,939	29,475	156,677	0	0	1,186,043	0	1,186,043
St Philip's	1,318,043	44,948	3,443	11,704	8,236	156,677	0	0	1,550,011	0	1,550,011
Grappenhall Heys	592,696	6,421	2,149	5,537	16,000	156,677	0	60,857	868,417	0	868,417
Latchford St James'	527,781	112,371	7,501	12,411	2,100	156,677	0	77,703	899,785	0	899,785
Alderman Bolton	801,550	282,532	11,005	23,174	11,369	156,677	0	101,192	1,403,273	0	1,403,273
Bruche	584,229	22,474	1,743	10,044	12,081	156,677	0	58,662	849,078	20,800	869,878
Beamont	1,097,899	298,586	17,467	26,768	37,041	156,677	0	130,223	1,794,180	0	1,794,180
	49,975,531	5,961,487	310,740	791,446	1,110,396	10,810,713	1,522,846	2,528,414	73,918,309	537,265	74,455,574

Appendix 1: Draft Individual School Budgets 2017/18 - Secondary Schools

		Per Pupil	Deprivation	EAL	LCHI SEN	HCLI SEN	Lump Sum	Des Prov	Rates	Split Site	TOTAL	Min Fund Guarantee	Revised TOTAL
CC	Name	£4,130.63	£3,023.58	£992.75	£782.75		£136,762						
35103	Culcheth	4,615,683	223,745	993	117,152	24,056	136,762	0	210,000	0	5,328,390	0	5,328,390
	Penketh	4,062,156	457,006	6,872	146,722	54,416	136,762	182,076	19,392	0	5,065,401	0	5,065,401
	King's Academy	2,076,691	84,661	2,978	50,425	8,946	136,762	0	3,264	0	2,363,727	0	2,363,727
	Great Sankey	6,248,844	139,084	3,979	176,534	68,756	136,762	0	46,800	0	6,820,759	0	6,820,759
35107	St Gregory's	3,678,368	196,017	20,501	121,480	43,534	136,762	304,528	21,120	0	4,522,309	0	4,522,309
	University Academy Warrington	1,648,149	322,835	15,418	93,472	44,526	136,762	182,076	13,920	0	2,457,158	0	2,457,158
	Birchwood	3,690,996	338,641	8,935	153,268	32,572	136,762	0	30,240	0	4,391,413	0	4,391,413
	Bridgewater	6,163,864	187,704	2,935	130,986	39,446	136,762	304,528	28,320	297,000	7,291,544	0	7,291,544
35115	Sir Thomas Boteler	2,184,749	307,425	4,853	104,339	38,980	136,762	182,076	15,648	0	2,974,831	0	2,974,831
	Beamont Collegiate Academy	3,338,693	523,079	20,848	185,054	11,656	136,762	0	21,696	0	4,237,788	0	4,237,788
35121	Cardinal Newman	3,204,917	260,028	17,916	115,086	52,483	136,762	0	15,936	0	3,803,127	0	3,803,127
	Future Tech Studio	879,670	54,949	0	42,512	4,588	136,762	0	6,192	0	1,124,672	49,886	1,174,558
	UTC	428,063	42,330	993	24,209	0	136,762	0	0	0	632,356	0	632,356
	Lymm	6,119,767	232,815	7,942	136,607	30,825	136,762	0	41,520	0	6,706,238	0	6,706,238
		48,340,610	3,370,319	115,161	1,597,844	454,784	1,914,661	1,155,284	474,048	297,000	57,719,712	49,886	57,769,598

Briefing Note

This briefing note provides a summary of the impact on Warrington schools of the most recently published DFE funding proposals for schools for Warrington Schools Forum to consider in formulating a response to the consultation.

National Fair Funding Consultation – Stage 2

On 14th December 2016, the Department for Education revealed its official response to the initial consultation on National Fair Funding (NFF) – specifically the Schools and High Needs Blocks of Dedicated Schools Grant – the first stage of which had concluded back in April. In the interval, at least partly because of the political turbulence generated by Cabinet reshuffles (the new Secretary of State for Education professed to needing more time to get a handle on the issues), but partly because of the lapsing of time and (most likely) a pre-emptive hostile response from LAs believed to be destined to lose out from a reorganisation of funding, the implementation of NFF has been deferred from 2017/18 to 2018/19. Consequently a slightly longer than normal window for responses is in place, with a deadline of 22nd March 2017.

The essential detail of the proposals is summarised below (final column). For comparison purposes, the actual values used by Warrington in its 2016/17 formula, and the proposals for 2017/18 are also shown. Shaded are the particular values which will cause Warrington the greatest difficulty in implementing (replacing a single WBC deprivation driver with multiple indices – 2 x FSM, 6 x IDACI - is a significant change, but it is impossible to generalise about the effect).

	16/17 Value	Proposed 17/18 Value	Proposed NFF Value
AWPU Primary	£2,788.03	£2,822.36	£2,712.00
AWPU KS3	£4,076.39	£4,067.04	£3,797.00
AWPU KS4	£4,139.98	£4,280.63	£4,312.00
FSM Primary (Current FSM)	£3,210.60	£3,210.60	£980.00
FSM Primary (Ever 6 FSM)	-	-	£540.00
FSM Secondary (Current FSM)	£3,023.58	£3,023.58	£1,225.00
FSM Secondary (Ever 6 FSM)	-	-	£785.00
IDACI Band F Primary	-	-	£575.00
IDACI Band E Primary	-	-	£420.00
IDACI Band D Primary	-	-	£360.00
IDACI Band C Primary	-	-	£360.00
IDACI Band B Primary	-	-	£240.00
IDACI Band A Primary	-	-	£200.00
IDACI Band F Secondary	-	-	£810.00
IDACI Band E Secondary	-	-	£600.00
IDACI Band D Secondary	-	-	£515.00
IDACI Band C Secondary	-	-	£515.00
IDACI Band B Secondary	-	-	£390.00
IDACI Band A Secondary	-	-	£290.00
EAL Primary (EAL3)	£370.45	£370.45	£515.00
EAL Secondary (EAL3)	£992.75	£992.75	£1,385.00
LPA Primary	-	£139.94	£1,050.00
LPA Secondary	£704.45	£782.75	£1,550.00
Lump Sum Primary	£156,677	£156,677	£110,000
Lump Sum Secondary	£136,762	£136,762	£110,000

Is Warrington a loser?

The initial illustrative data produced by the DfE suggest that when considering Schools Block, High Needs Block and the proposed Central Block all together, Warrington will see a modest increase in funding of around 0.45%, equivalent to around £640,000, and that Schools Block itself will increase by about 0.62% (c. £760K). This is substantially less than suggested in the original f40 proposals (which was roughly twice this amount), and if reverse calculated back to a Unit of Funding basis, would see Warrington fall back to its lowest position in the funding rankings (see illustration below). In other words, thirteen Authorities currently funded even lower than we are in 2017/18 would 'leapfrog' Warrington in these standings. Of those 126 Authorities currently better funded than we are, we overtake but a single one (Cheshire East).

2017/18 Rank	LA No.	LA Name	Schools Block GUF	NFFF increase/decrease	2018/19 GUF	2018/19 Rank	Compared to WBC	
							2017/18	2018/19
127	877	Warrington	£4,279.35	0.62%	£4,306.07	141	100%	100%
128	802	North Somerset	£4,279.02	0.91%	£4,317.82	139	100%	100%
129	933	Somerset	£4,274.36	5.07%	£4,490.88	97	100%	104%
130	334	Solihull	£4,273.76	3.03%	£4,403.26	121	100%	102%
131	857	Rutland	£4,266.50	-1.03%	£4,222.39	149	100%	98%
132	850	Hampshire	£4,264.98	0.65%	£4,292.62	143	100%	100%
133	358	Trafford	£4,256.21	-0.36%	£4,240.71	147	99%	98%
134	936	Surrey	£4,252.49	3.12%	£4,385.08	125	99%	102%
135	886	Kent	£4,248.84	3.59%	£4,401.37	122	99%	102%
136	835	Dorset	£4,240.16	2.44%	£4,343.83	136	99%	101%
137	351	Bury	£4,237.69	5.21%	£4,458.39	107	99%	104%
138	356	Stockport	£4,235.85	0.85%	£4,271.99	144	99%	99%
139	865	Wiltshire	£4,235.37	2.65%	£4,347.48	135	99%	101%
140	825	Buckinghamshire	£4,232.84	3.46%	£4,379.26	126	99%	102%
141	837	Bournemouth	£4,221.54	3.61%	£4,374.11	129	99%	102%
142	938	West Sussex	£4,202.42	3.52%	£4,350.43	134	98%	101%
143	803	South Gloucestershire	£4,190.15	2.89%	£4,311.06	140	98%	100%
144	866	Swindon	£4,170.75	3.07%	£4,298.75	142	97%	100%
145	867	Bracknell Forest	£4,167.13	5.08%	£4,378.76	127	97%	102%
146	836	Poole	£4,166.39	1.11%	£4,212.58	150	97%	98%
147	800	Bath and North East Somerset	£4,164.39	5.74%	£4,403.63	120	97%	102%
148	816	York	£4,162.98	5.37%	£4,386.59	124	97%	102%
149	855	Leicestershire	£4,156.59	2.55%	£4,262.65	145	97%	99%
150	872	Wokingham	£4,152.15	2.09%	£4,239.02	148	97%	98%

Average	£4,700.10
Median	£4,527.89
Warrington % of mean	91.05%
Warrington % of median	94.51%

£4,744.67
£4,592.19
90.76%
93.77%

Furthermore, NFF will eventually result in what is known as a hard formula, under which individual schools' allocations will be calculated using exactly the same criteria and values as an Authority's 'macro'-level allocation. So we must also consider the effects of the proposals at school level.

Those effects are..?

Of the 69 primaries, only 20 are illustrated to benefit (average £31,500), compared to 49 losses averaging £17,654

For the secondaries, none are predicted to lose, with the 11 gainers averaging an increase of £79,909. One school's allocation would remain unchanged, it suggests (Culcheth).

Why has this happened?

Some of the conclusions drawn from the DfE's research is in opposition to the funding philosophies held by Warrington. So there are issues relating both to the factors used, but also the relative weightings placed upon them within the overall proposed formula. In part this is simply a difference in opinion – for example, the proposed model employs a ratio of primary to secondary per pupil funding of 1:1.29 (the Warrington ratio is 1:1.24). A lump sum smaller than we employ in either sector, but significantly smaller than used in the primary sector, affects primary schools proportionately more. There is a significant weighting applied to low prior attainment, which perversely disadvantages Warrington generally, and its primary schools in particular.

Another issue is the timidity of the proposals. With the exception of a handful of Authorities switching places within it, the top 16 previously best funded Authorities remain the top 16 best funded Authorities. In 2017/18 the absolute best funded Authority, Tower Hamlets, received 63% more for each pupil as Warrington. Under NFF that ratio is 57%. These are not savage redistributions.

The technical detail is clear – in deriving many of these unit values, the DfE has simply looked at national average values. But of course those values are informed by the current funding levels, so without starting afresh and evaluating what is truly required for fairness, only a modest redistributive effect is the outcome.

The limiting factor is always going to be the attempt to achieve some measure of equity without either the courage to be less protective of LAs losing out, or the resolve necessary to introduce extra funding to the model.

The illustrative figures cited in the Consultation document use the 2016/17 data in their estimation, so to check that Warrington was not being particularly disadvantaged by a rogue set of outcomes, we applied the new October 2016 census data (to be used in calculating actual school budgets for 2017/18). Unfortunately, while there were a small number of schools reflecting different outcomes, the broad conclusions remain the same (see Appendix for details).

CONCLUSIONS

It is suggested that the conclusions that can be drawn from the proposals as currently presented, and which Schools Forum may wish to reflect in any response to the consultation are:

- Deriving factor values from an averaging exercise builds-in existing funding inequities, it doesn't challenge them.
- Applying a sector funding ratio of 1:1.29 is diametrically opposed to the principle adopted by Warrington Schools Forum wherein additional funding is considered first to be applied to the primary sector.
- Lump Sum element is significantly lower than current WBC, which has an especially disproportionate impact on primary sector.
- The proposed deprivation factor too convoluted. Why include Ever 6 (used as the Pupil Premium proxy)?
- 3% protection on losers at Authority level is too generous and therefore the spread of funding between the best and worst funded authority is still far too wide.
- More time should be allowed to transition from soft to hard NFF.

110971	8772013	Bewsey Lodge Primary School	241	£1,004,993	4170.094
110972	8772015	Dallam Community Primary School	188	£835,907	4446.315
110973	8772016	Meadowside Community Primary School	215	£901,278	4191.992
110989	8772103	Bradshaw Community Primary School	199	£633,428	3183.057
110996	8772112	Stockton Heath Primary School	379	£1,181,095	3116.347
111000	8772116	Thelwall Community Junior School	162	£503,506	3108.061
111001	8772117	The Cobbs Infant School	264	£820,981	3109.776
111005	8772125	Statham Community Primary School	192	£599,141	3120.528
111006	8772126	Ravenbank Community Primary School	409	£1,233,572	3016.068
111128	8772300	Broomfields Junior School	367	£1,142,262	3112.431
111135	8772313	Oughtrington Community Primary School	419	£1,222,358	2917.322
111138	8772317	Appleton Thorn Primary School	203	£611,968	3014.62
111150	8772335	Cherry Tree Primary School	213	£655,965	3079.649
111168	8772370	Thelwall Community Infant School	124	£386,342	3115.664
111178	8772400	Burtonwood Community Primary School	203	£689,644	3397.26
111179	8772401	Croft Primary School	210	£652,606	3107.645
111180	8772402	Culcheth Community Primary School	213	£696,403	3269.497
111181	8772403	Great Sankey Primary School	312	£951,576	3049.925
111182	8772405	Woolston Community Primary School	228	£750,651	3292.327
111189	8772416	Newchurch Community Primary School	211	£642,543	3045.229
111192	8772420	Park Road Community Primary School	207	£647,811	3129.52
111193	8772421	Chapelford Village Primary School	512	£1,610,761	3146.018
111195	8772423	Twiss Green Community Primary School	211	£624,102	2957.829
111198	8772426	Penketh South Community Primary School	174	£558,203	3208.065
111202	8772433	Brook Acre Community Primary School	222	£972,653	4381.321
111204	8772677	Locking Stumps Community Primary School	339	£1,162,232	3428.413
111206	8772685	Westbrook Old Hall Primary School	412	£1,282,683	3113.308
111208	8772687	Gorse Covert Primary School	306	£930,881	3042.094
111214	8772697	Callands Primary School	313	£1,044,114	3335.828
111234	8772717	Barrow Hall Community Primary	556	£1,680,347	3022.206
131372	8772728	Oakwood Avenue Community Primary School	545	£2,110,533	3872.538
132247	8772729	Latchford St James CofE Primary School	187	£719,510	3847.649
132768	8772730	Grappenhall Heys Community Primary School	210	£623,331	2968.245
133677	8772731	Alderman Bolton Community Primary School	284	£1,191,505	4195.439
133676	8772732	Sankey Valley St James' CE Primary School	202	£725,421	3591.195
111296	8773302	St Elphin's (Fairfield) C.E. Primary School	385	£1,391,263	3613.671
131349	8773304	St Margaret's CE Vol Aided Primary School	430	£1,633,127	3797.969
111298	8773308	Warrington St Ann's CE Primary School	198	£812,843	4105.268
111299	8773310	Warrington St Barnabas' CE Primary School	198	£792,289	4001.459
111301	8773313	St. Andrew's CE Primary School	191	£805,879	4219.26
111304	8773316	Birchwood CE Primary School	187	£747,561	3997.653
111305	8773400	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	191	£711,526	3725.267
111306	8773401	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	199	£718,465	3610.378
111307	8773402	St Alban's Catholic Primary School	189	£731,716	3871.512
111308	8773404	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School	206	£749,187	3636.829
111309	8773409	St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School	147	£597,851	4067.017
111310	8773410	ST STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	209	£795,802	3807.664
111315	8773505	Grappenhall St Wilfrid's CE Primary School	416	£1,226,534	2948.399
111318	8773508	St. Thomas' CE Aided Primary School	209	£646,351	3092.591
111322	8773512	St. Monica's Catholic Primary School	201	£626,159	3115.218
111362	8773600	Glazebury CE (Aided) Primary School	93	£297,765	3201.773
111363	8773601	Christ Church CE Primary School Padgate	317	£1,088,753	3434.552
111364	8773602	Hollins Green St Helen's CE (Aided) Primary School	138	£459,321	3328.415
111365	8773603	Winwick C.E Primary School	186	£573,232	3081.892
111366	8773609	Woolston CE Aided Primary School	213	£665,834	3125.98
111367	8773610	St Paul of the Cross Catholic Primary School	173	£581,358	3360.454
111368	8773611	St Lewis' Catholic Primary School	198	£620,597	3134.328

111369	8773612	St Oswald's Catholic Primary School	212	£676,022	3188.781
111370	8773613	St Peter's Catholic Primary	215	£642,540	2988.559
111373	8773622	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	299	£888,076	2970.154
111376	8773627	St Vincent's Catholic Primary School	249	£757,493	3042.142
111377	8773629	St Bridget's Catholic Primary School	216	£899,815	4165.812
111381	8773638	Cinnamon Brow CE Primary School	306	£1,112,522	3635.694
111382	8773639	Stretton St Matthew's CE Primary School	203	£597,915	2945.395
111385	8773642	St Philip (Westbrook) CE Aided Primary School	467	£1,390,201	2976.875
135161	8773794	Beamont Community Primary	389	£1,537,206	3951.685
111430	8774200	Culcheth High School	1113	£4,957,619	4454.285
133672	8774230	SIR THOMAS BOTELER C.E. HIGH S	525	£2,776,742	5289.032
111454	8774622	St. Gregory's Catholic High School	886	£4,094,209	4621.004
111456	8774624	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	774	£3,815,068	4929.028
143064	8772005	Evelyn Street Primary School	232	£890,374	3837.82
143072	8772722	Penketh Primary School	206	£640,632	3109.864
143058	8773643	Bruche Primary School	207	£686,128	3314.63
138562	8774000	Kings Leadership Academy	503	£2,221,243	4415.99
139072	8774001	University Academy Warrington	397	£2,211,307	5570.042
139196	8774002	Beamont Collegiate Academy	806	£4,473,436	5550.169
140620	8774003	Future Tech Studio	205.5	£1,093,123	5319.333
142899	8774004	UTC Warrington	100	£520,893	5208.931
139506	8774201	Penketh High School	979	£4,781,706	4884.276
139152	8774206	Great Sankey High School	1506	£6,599,559	4382.177
139840	8774226	Birchwood Community High	889	£4,369,360	4914.916
141598	8774229	Bridgewater High School	1485	£6,481,895	4364.912
138732	8774502	Lymm High School	1474	£6,448,847	4375.066

Appendix: Illustrative 2016/17 and 2017/18 effects of NFF Stage 2 Proposals

School Name	17-18 Post MFG Budget Proposal	NFF Gain/(Loss) on 17/18 data	NFF Gain/(Loss) on 16/17 data
Total	£125,453,456	£983,721	£644,000
Bewsey Lodge Primary School (18)	£1,179,468	-£1,698.04	-£34,000.00
Dallam Community Primary School (24)	£959,012	£2,855.19	-£28,000.00
Meadowside Community Primary School (18)	£1,117,552	-£8,191.09	-£31,000.00
Bradshaw Community Primary School	£769,364	-£10,133.27	-£3,000.00
Stockton Heath Primary School	£1,317,677	£12,058.78	-£5,000.00
Thelwall Community Junior School	£662,817	-£31,151.82	-£15,000.00
The Cobbs Infant School	£977,507	-£7,883.22	-£13,000.00
Statham Community Primary School	£756,705	-£23,623.82	-£19,000.00
Ravenbank Community Primary School	£1,426,440	-£55,507.92	-£36,000.00
Broomfields Junior School	£1,295,238	-£16,095.70	-£32,000.00
Oughtrington Community Primary School	£1,406,106	-£44,708.38	-£28,000.00
Appleton Thorn Primary School	£761,777	-£20,374.65	-£14,000.00
Cherry Tree Primary School	£818,919	-£33,797.34	-£20,000.00
Thelwall Community Infant School	£545,497	-£5,637.22	-£12,000.00
Burtonwood Community Primary School	£819,917	-£4,433.12	-£17,000.00
Croft Primary School	£812,050	-£18,116.80	-£20,000.00
Culcheth Community Primary School	£846,375	-£26,052.58	-£12,000.00
Great Sankey Primary School	£1,137,188	-£33,038.94	-£26,000.00
Woolston Community Primary School (8)	£917,415	-£27,724.27	-£7,000.00
Newchurch Community Primary School	£799,471	-£25,787.40	-£20,000.00
Park Road Community Primary School	£787,494	-£15,282.92	-£8,000.00
Chapelford Village Primary School	£1,783,796	-£14,074.84	£61,000.00
Twiss Green Community Primary School	£800,826	-£15,996.91	-£20,000.00
Penketh South Community Primary School	£698,772	-£3,060.82	-£18,000.00
Brook Acre Community Primary School	£1,130,912	-£6,015.80	-£30,000.00
Locking Stumps Community Primary School	£1,281,047	£16,145.25	-£4,000.00
Westbrook Old Hall Primary School	£1,423,855	£507.82	£16,000.00
Gorse Covert Primary School	£1,078,736	-£6,655.41	£3,000.00
Callands Primary School	£1,156,568	£23,946.70	£33,000.00
Barrow Hall Community Primary	£1,811,618	£9,448.91	£26,000.00
Oakwood Avenue Community Primary School	£2,162,298	£65,963.79	£27,000.00
Latchford St James CofE Primary School	£819,981	£12,769.02	£10,000.00
Grappenhall Heys Community Primary School	£791,560	-£23,047.39	-£19,000.00
Alderman Bolton Community Primary School	£1,290,712	£26,565.34	£3,000.00
Sankey Valley St James' CE Primary School	£930,120	-£11,239.52	-£25,000.00
St Elphin's (Fairfield) C.E. Primary School	£1,470,783	£39,600.87	£49,000.00
St Margaret's CE Vol Aided Primary School	£1,652,890	£99,644.89	£92,000.00
Warrington St Ann's CE Primary School	£926,679	£1,443.81	-£24,000.00
Warrington St Barnabas' CE Primary School	£889,796	£15,396.53	£4,000.00
St. Andrew's CE Primary School	£913,105	£5,173.81	-£25,000.00
Birchwood CE Primary School	£892,542	-£239.48	-£22,000.00
Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	£808,207	£16,126.85	£7,000.00

School Name	17-18 Post MFG Budget Proposal	NFF Gain/(Loss) on 17/18 data	NFF Gain/(Loss) on 16/17 data
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	£831,273	£215.95	-£2,000.00
St Alban's Catholic Primary School	£780,214	£64,885.90	£81,000.00
St Benedict's Catholic Primary School	£828,333	£35,005.46	£46,000.00
St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School	£734,874	£1,078.95	-£18,000.00
ST STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	£887,163	£21,206.98	£10,000.00
Grappenhall St Wilfrid's CE Primary School	£1,357,150	-£14,616.49	£4,000.00
St. Thomas' CE Aided Primary School	£804,562	-£38,073.73	-£20,000.00
St. Monica's Catholic Primary School	£762,846	-£19,299.92	-£18,000.00
Glazebury CE (Aided) Primary School	£450,865	-£7,774.30	-£11,000.00
Christ Church CE Primary School Padgate	£1,208,978	-£5,280.90	-£1,000.00
Hollins Green St Helen's CE (Aided) Primary	£579,622	-£7,637.21	-£5,000.00
Winwick C.E Primary School	£723,467	-£24,655.40	-£18,000.00
Woolston CE Aided Primary School	£785,072	-£5,686.46	£19,000.00
St Paul of the Cross Catholic Primary School	£715,769	-£21,194.27	-£18,000.00
St Lewis' Catholic Primary School	£773,814	-£18,408.57	-£18,000.00
St Oswald's Catholic Primary School	£788,773	£464.35	-£7,000.00
St Peter's Catholic Primary	£775,351	-£2,098.99	-£21,000.00
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	£1,023,342	-£21,929.77	-£12,000.00
St Vincent's Catholic Primary School	£907,669	-£22,017.48	-£26,000.00
St Bridget's Catholic Primary School	£947,706	£65,829.18	£35,000.00
Cinnamon Brow CE Primary School (8)	£1,211,739	£16,831.97	£43,000.00
Stretton St Matthew's CE Primary School	£745,212	-£13,579.93	-£19,000.00
St Philip (Westbrook) CE Aided Primary School	£1,541,774	-£34,613.47	-£10,000.00
Beamont Community Primary	£1,626,916	£49,809.85	£61,000.00
Culcheth High School	£5,304,334	-£26,715.47	£0.00
SIR THOMAS BOTELER C.E. HIGH S (12)	£2,753,776	£148,613.70	£157,000.00
St. Gregory's Catholic High School (16)	£4,174,247	£51,082.84	£58,000.00
Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	£3,750,645	£190,358.92	£161,000.00
Evelyn Street Primary School	£1,099,985	-£8,027.58	-£28,000.00
Penketh Primary School	£773,522	-£19,698.56	-£14,000.00
Bruche Primary School	£799,134	£2,589.11	-£12,000.00
Kings Leadership Academy	£2,354,781	-£20,274.13	£0.00
University Academy Warrington	£2,230,556	£104,670.46	£62,000.00
Beamont Collegiate Academy	£4,226,133	£378,999.55	£163,000.00
Future Tech Studio	£1,169,970	£39,344.57	£26,000.00
UTC Warrington	£632,357	-£1,463.49	£0.00
Penketh High School	£4,828,909	£82,188.78	£26,000.00
Great Sankey High School	£6,752,004	£4,355.41	£51,000.00
Birchwood Community High	£4,358,842	£150,758.25	£138,000.00
Bridgewater High School	£6,947,571	£125,444.77	£25,000.00
Lymm High School	£6,675,413	-£75,046.68	£12,000.00

Membership

Membership with differentiated voting rights ~ Total Membership of 25, of whom 21 are entitled to vote on funding formula issues											
Sector Representation (21)	Appointed by the Council following election by:	Member	Dates and Attendance								Tenure Ends
			22 March 2016	28 June 2016	4 October 2016	10 January 2017					
Maintained Nursery School Senior Staff (1)	Primary Headteachers Group	Jane Wilkie (JWil)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
Special School Staff (1)	Special School Headteachers Group	Mike Frost (MF)	P	S	P						Jan 2020
Special School Governor (1)	Governors Forum	Mike Evans (ME)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
PRU (1)	PRU Management Board	Karen Thomson (KT)	A	S	A						Jan 2020
Academy (4)	Academy Schools	Gwyn Williams (GW)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
		Tim Long (TL)	A	P	P						Jan 2020
		Ben Dunne (BD)	S	A	A						Jan 2020
		Andrew Bent (AB)	P	A	P						Jan 2020
Maintained Primary School Sector (9)	WAPH (5)	Andrew Redman (AR)	A	P	P						Jan 2020
		Susan Robinson (SR)	-	-	P						Jan 2020
		Gary Cunningham (GC)	P	A	P						Jan 2020
		Lesley McGann (LMc)	-	-	P						Jan 2020
		Lyndsey Glass (LG)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
	Governors Forum (4)	Stuart Munslow (SM)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
		David Hart (DH)	P	P	A						Jan 2020
		Janet Lazarus (JL)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
		Peter Ashurst (PA)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
Maintained Secondary School Sector (3)	WASCL (2)	Bev Scott-Herron (BSH)	P	P	P						Jan 2020
		Vacancy	-	-	-						Jan 2020
	Governors Forum (1)	Rebecca Knowles (RK)	X	X	X						Jan 2020
Private Voluntary and Independent Providers (1)	PVI Providers Forum	Ginny Taylor (GT)	P	A	P					Jan 2020	

Representing	Member	22 March 2016	28 June 2016	4 October 2016	10 January 2017										Tenure Ends
<u>Non-Schools Members (4)</u>															
Anglican Diocese (1)	Jacqui Wightman (JWig)	P	P	S											Jan 2020
Roman Catholic Diocese (1)	Tim Warren (TW)	P	X	X											Jan 2020
16-19 Institutions (1)	Gail Stonier (GS)	S	X	P											Jan 2020
Parent Governor (1)	TBC	-	-	-											Jan 2020
Independent Chair	Maureen Banner (MB)	P	P	P											Jan 2020
Representing															
<u>Warrington Borough Council</u>															
Interim Assistant Director Education	Hilary Smith (HS)	P	P	P											
Head of Service Pupil Achievement and Support	Lisa Morgan (LM)	-	P	P											
Chief Finance Officer	James Campbell (JC)	P	P	P											
	Garry Bradbury (GB)	P	P	P											
Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services	Cllr Jean Carter (CllrJC)	A	P	A											

Key

P ~ Present

S ~ Substitute

A ~ Apologies

- ~ Vacancy

X ~ Absent with no apologies

O ~ Observer

Non-School Member Representing Trades Unions

Shaun Everett – NUT

Substitutes:

Chris Metcalfe (on behalf of Jacqui Wightman)

Apologies from Judith Wright (on behalf of Ben Dunne)

Observers:

None

Presenting an Item:

Dave Roberts

Minutes:

Gill Sykes (GMS)

Warrington Schools Forum

Minutes – draft to be confirmed January 2017

Tuesday 4 October 2016

5.15 pm – 7.00 pm

Conference Room, 1st Floor New Town House

	<i>Item</i>	Action
1	<p>Apologies and welcome</p> <p>The chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and for the benefit of new members introductions were made around the table. Apologies were received from Cllr Jean Carter, Jacqui Wightman, David Hart, Karen Thomson, Ben Dunne and Judith Wright (substitute for Ben Dunne).</p>	
2	<p>Minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true record. Reference was made to Item 11 on page 5 regarding possible use of unallocated/unused KS1 contingencies for maintained schools with significant increases in pupil numbers. The chairperson suggested this should be an agenda item at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: Contingencies for maintained schools to be included on agenda of the next meeting.</p>	GB
3	<p>Current position on local authority traded services with academies</p> <p>Dave Roberts presented a report on traded services with academies detailing the current contractual buyback of all academy schools in Warrington as well as highlighting any major changes or deviations.</p> <p>It is recommended that Schools Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the impact on individual services and in the wider context of services for schools in relation to the work being carried out on behalf of the Interim Assistant Director Education. NOTED 	
4	<p>Update on national funding formula</p> <p>Feedback has not been received on the consultation about the Schools Block and High Needs Block funding. The new Education Secretary has publicly committed herself to the principles of Fair Funding but recognises political difficulties in implementing the reform. The Schools Block for Warrington is badly served by the current allocation formula. Consequences for schools are severe as there was an</p>	

	<p>understanding that funding pressures would be relieved beginning 2017/18, and the timetable for improvement can no longer be guaranteed. The F40 group continue to lobby the government and have volunteered suggestions about how the funding could be reformed. It was noted that several local authorities have written to the Secretary of State to query whether there are any interim measures. The response has been negative.</p>	
5	<p>Early Years funding - consultation</p> <p>It was noted that Warrington are very low down in the league table for funding for Early Years (143/151). Proposals are included in the consultation to address fairness, using a basic building block element with additional elements based on EAL (English as an Additional Language), FSM (Free School Meals) and instances of DLA (Disability Living Allowance) of early years children. Proposals include early years settings being funded at the same basic hourly rate, and this would mean a significant increase in the PVI rate, a small reduction in the maintained schools class rate and a large reduction in maintained nursery school rate. Feedback from providers nationally is that dedicated nursery schools would be severely threatened. Warrington has made its response to the consultation saying that we have concerns around a flat rate for everyone but we do agree to a higher rate of funding. It was noted that local authorities will be given another financial year cycle to move towards implementing the new regime. The DfE will be notifying local authorities of the allocations by the second week of December 2016.</p> <p>It was noted that as Early Years will now be receiving additional funding (extra £1.4m) and we are not obliged to implement until 2018/19, Schools Forum could consider whether to move all the funding to Early Years or whether funding could be redirected to High Needs for the first year.</p>	
6	<p>Outcome of the schools balance challenge process</p> <p>The outcome of the balance challenge process is that the Formula Working Group will not be recommending clawback from any school as part of the process. Schools adequately explained surpluses. However, there is agreement to recommend an alternative approach to the challenge process for 2016/2017 balances in order to provide more rigour. Schools Forum reps to feedback to headteachers that a more radical decision could be made in the future and balances carried forward could be under greater scrutiny. It was noted that there are other authorities who have claw back arrangements and use them (not authorities in the F40 group).</p> <p>In the meantime it will be necessary to apply a general top-slice across all schools (including academies) before budget calculation for 2017/18 (levels to be agreed at Schools Forum).</p>	
7	<p>Update on High Needs spend</p> <p>HS presented a report on high needs budget pressure and the school balance challenge process. The outcome of the schools balance challenge process is noted above in Item 6. HS updated the Forum on the current position in relation to developing a sustainable offer for children and young people with additional needs</p>	

	<p>across Warrington in the future. There is a programme of activity planned, which may help to alleviate some of the pressure. However, it is anticipated that the level of funding required in the future will be significantly more than is made available currently. Reference was made to paragraph 3.9 in the report stating that movement from other blocks will be unlikely in the future. Discussion took place around the position on High Needs including the financial implications. It was noted that this key priority for the Warrington Inclusion Hub should be highlighted at the next meeting.</p> <p>Funding information is expected from the DfE by the second week in December and the deadline for returns from the local authority is 20 January 2017. In light of this it was suggested to rearrange the next Schools Forum meeting to early January 2017. Action: Rearrange Schools Forum meeting to 10 January 2017.</p> <p>It is recommended that Schools Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) note the outcome of the school balances challenge process which has not identified any clawback from schools so far; (ii) discuss the suggestions of alternatives to the current balance challenge methodology and how this would run parallel to a general topslice of the Schools Block for 2017/18; (iii) suggest any additional alternative methods of challenge and clawback; (iv) note the ongoing challenge in relation to High Needs and that the issue has been raised with the Secretary of State; (v) note that officers are working with headteachers in order to identify any opportunity to reduce financial pressure on the High Needs budget in the future; and (vi) request regular updates on the position on High Needs including the financial implications of any changes to the local offer in the future. <p>Points (i) to (vi) DISCUSSED and NOTED.</p>	GMS
8	<p>Local Authority position on school redundancy payments</p> <p>It was noted that as a consequence of the ongoing challenges faced by the local authority and the need to consider the level of financial support available to maintained schools in the future, the position on redundancy payments has been amended. The local authority will not, as a general rule, be meeting the cost of redundancy payments in the maintained sector in the future. This is with effect from 1 September 2016. <i>(Subsequent to this meeting an email was sent to all schools with this information.)</i></p>	
9	<p>AOB – No items discussed.</p>	
10	<p>Meeting schedule Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 5.15 pm Car parking will be available from 5.00 pm onwards</p>	

REPORT

WARRINGTON
Borough Council



Report to: Schools Forum

Item: 7

Date: 10 January 2017

For: Decision

Title: High Needs Budget Pressure &
School Balance 2016/2017
Challenge Process

Author: Hilary Smith

Presenter: Hilary Smith

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek support for implementation:

- (i) Of a package of identified measures to address pressure on the High Needs budget in the short-term in order to minimise impact on individual school budgets in 2017/2018; and
- (ii) Of more robust arrangements for claw-back of school balances in the future, in the event that the balance accumulated by any individual maintained school exceeds an agreed level.

1.2 To note that further work is required to ensure that arrangements for responding to children and young people in the future will have to change in order to potentially be sustainable financially longer term. This will require the ability for greater scrutiny and challenge in the process which will only be possible if additional capacity is built into the arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND: HIGH NEEDS PRESSURE

2.1 Warrington Schools Forum has received three reports during the current 2016/2017 financial year specifically highlighting the pressure on the High Needs budget and recommending action needed to address the pressure in the short-term whilst a longer-term solution to funding arrangements can be established in order to sustain a quality local offer.

2.2 At the meeting on 28 June 2016 the Schools Forum supported a recommendation to explore recovery of school balances under specified conditions. This involved support for a new approach to the financial year-end school balance challenge

process to create the opportunity for redistribution of a proportion of school balances, equivalent to £2 million.

- 2.3 The outcome of the balance process was that the Formula Working Group did not recommend clawback from any school as part of the process. It was considered that schools adequately explained surpluses. However, there was agreement to recommend an alternative approach to the challenge process for 2016/2017 balances in order to provide more rigour. This was subsequently recommended and supported at the meeting of Schools Forum on 4 October.
- 2.4 Further, at that meeting it was agreed that Schools Forum representatives would feedback to Headteachers that a more radical decision could be made in the future and balances carried forward could be under greater scrutiny. It was noted that there are other authorities who have claw back arrangements and use them.
- 2.5 The implication of the decision not to claw-back at the end of 2015/2016 was that the High Needs budget pressure in 2016/2017 and potential similar pressure would have to be supported in 2017/2018.
- 2.6 Schools Forum secondary phase representatives advised colleagues of the decision at the first meeting of the Warrington Association of Secondary School and College Leaders (WASCL) following Schools Forum. Secondary Head teachers raised concerns over the impact on individual school budgets in 2017/2018 and requested that action should be taken sooner rather than later, if there was any opportunity to reduce the impact by improvements to the arrangements currently in place for supporting High Needs. It was explained that there was intention to review arrangements anyway and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Warrington Inclusion Hub (WIH).
- 2.7 The position on High Needs arrangements including the lack of a graduated approach to supporting need and the rate of increase of expenditure was discussed at the Autumn term meeting of the WIH. It was agreed that a group of representatives from primary, secondary and special schools would work alongside appropriate local authority officers to determine whether there was opportunity to offset pressure in the short-term and potentially reduce expenditure longer-term.
- 2.8 Consequently the group met on three separate occasions over a very short period in November in order to be able to present a package of measures for discussion at the Formula Funding Working Group (FFWG) on 12 December 2016.
- 2.9 A summary of the measures is included as Appendix A to this report, which if implemented would minimise direct impact on school budgets in 2017/2018.
- 2.10 It should be noted that the list of measures identified is consistent with the actions that were identified in the report to Schools Forum on 4 October as follows:

- Programme of activity to build capacity in mainstream in relation to early and appropriate identification of need;
- Review of Top-up to ensure that process for agreeing Top-up is robust and support is being targeted appropriately;
- Review of designated provisions across primary and secondary to identify changes required to deliver an organisation that is fit for purpose in the future;
- Consideration of the current arrangements for allocating funding to special schools to ensure that schools receive what is required and there is no element of over-funding;
- An application to the Department for Education for a new 5-19 ASD special school in Warrington in order that the needs of more children and young people can be met locally in the future (potentially from September 2018);
- Review of Alternative Provision to ensure that the current provision is the most effective and cost effective way of responding to need in the future;
- Consideration of the impact of the proposals for Early Years given that this may provide opportunity to review level of support available through High Needs.

2.11 The FFWG considered the list of measures put forward and had concerns that the use of contingency funding would not be fair, given that there is a higher contribution from primary schools compared to secondary schools. It was agreed that at least two options should be put to Schools Forum: (i) utilising contingency; and (ii) without contingency and therefore a requirement for some additional commitment in 2017/2018.

2.12 It is essential for Schools Forum to note that:

- The anticipated pressure on High Needs in 2016/2017 is only an estimate based on in-year trends in expenditure and the actual figure will not be known until closure of accounts;
- This means that the total package of measures may not be required; or alternatively the total package of measures identified may not be sufficient;
- In any event, therefore, the actual position will be revisited once the outturn position on 2016/2017 is confirmed;
- The package of measures was only those ideas that could be identified within a very short timescale and may include one-off opportunities acceptable in the short-term but that would not be acceptable as longer-term solutions;
- That insufficient time was available to undertake a comprehensive review of all existing arrangements and therefore this work should continue until schools and the Local Authority are satisfied that arrangements in the future make the most effective use of limited and potentially diminishing resources.

2.13 In summary School Forum are requested to identify which of the following options to implement in 2017/2018 to reduce impact of increased pressure of High Needs Budget:

- Option 1: Full list of measures as presented in Appendix A; or
- Option 2: List of measures as presented, excluding use of unspent contingencies, and therefore the shortfall to be met from a general top slice as illustrated in Appendix B; or
- Option 3: An alternative approach agreed by the Schools Forum

3. APPROACH TO BALANCE CHALLENGE 2016/2017 PROCESS

- 3.1 It is important to recall that the agreement to initiate the challenge process came before the decision of the most recently appointed Secretary of State for Education to defer the fair funding reform until 2018/19. Therefore the anticipated increase in funding for 2017/18 will not now happen and also the impact of the National Funding Formula in future years appears unlikely to deliver the financial benefits that Warrington schools expected.
- 3.2 This means that whilst in theory it is still appropriate to ensure robust arrangements for claw back are in place, the ability to recover funding for redistribution against priority pressures in the longer-term will be limited, even from schools that do not convert to academy.
- 3.3 Further it should be noted that the most recent announcements on school funding suggest no increase in financial support available specifically for High Needs. This means that there is an even greater imperative to ensure that arrangements supported from the High Needs Budget in Warrington make the most effective use of diminishing resources.
- 3.4 As suggested earlier in the report, although the Formula Working Group concluded that there was no justification for clawback of 2015/2016 balances, the Group considered that there was a justification to consider an alternative challenge process for 2016/17 balances with four potential scenarios as follows:
- A) Difference between next year's projected balance and uncommitted balance i.e. in-year balance growth
 - B) Clawback 5% of uncommitted balance
 - C) Automatically apply a 12.5% clawback of balance amounts above triggers
 - D) Automatically clawback 1% of balances from those schools exceeding triggers
- 3.5 These suggestions would apply to 2016/17 closing balances and therefore cannot yet be calculated.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that Schools Forum:

- (i) Identify the option to implement from those identified at 2.13 above in order to address the pressure on the High Needs budget;
- (ii) discuss the suggestions of alternatives to the current balance challenge methodology identified at 3.4 and how this might be implemented in the future;
- (iii) note the ongoing challenge in relation to High Needs and that changes to local arrangements are necessary for a potentially financially sustainable offer to exist in the future;
- (iv) note that the process will require investment in capacity to support challenge and scrutiny across the identification, referral and assessment processes;
- (v) note that officers will continue to work with Head-teachers in order to identify any opportunity to reduce financial pressure on the High Needs budget in the future; and
- (vi) request regular updates on the position on High Needs including the financial implications of any changes to the local offer in the future.

Appendix A: Summary document shared with Working Group

Appendix B: Figures illustrating replacing proposed retention of contingencies with a general schools budget topslice in 2017/18 – three alternative methods shown

High Needs Funding Proposals

3 Part Plan:

1. Response to overspend in 2016/2017 (predicted: £1.0 million)
2. Plan to reduce overall expenditure in 2017/2018, to increase control and effectively reduce spend by approximately £1.0 million without impacting on quality by a combination of:
 - a. Utilising other opportunities to meet cost when appropriate (early years funding stream); and
 - b. Expecting schools generally to do more for the allocated sum when we appear to be allocating generously (e.g. Top-Ups); and
 - c. Addressing any inefficiencies that might exist that may have evolved over time with changes; and
 - d. Considering different approaches to some responses to ensure getting value for money and/or delivering better outcomes (e.g. AP; DP quality issues; hospital education fees) etc; and
 - e. Investing in professional capacity to have greater control over placement decisions (possible combination of officer/school leader capacity to support decision making process); and
 - f. Generally expecting schools to adopt more inclusive approaches in order to better manage demand with support and challenge from peers.
3. Plan to develop the local offer, which provides an early at least equally effective response, through sustainable arrangements which utilise diminishing resources more effectively (Resource support package as early help vs EHCP when EHCP is not necessarily the required response; expand some DPs; new local ASD school; 19-25 offer, etc)

Focus of WIH Funding Sub Group; Formula Funding Working Group; and Schools Forum are Parts 1 and 2 only at this stage.

Part 3 will involve development of different approaches to SEND in the longer term to ensure we have sustainable financial arrangements delivering school improvement and inclusion.

Therefore some of the following proposals to identify savings/reduce expenditure may be short-term measures only and need to be understood in the context of responding to financial challenges that exist currently. Longer-term there may be a requirement to reinvest and/or possibly even reverse these short-term decisions. This will become clear as we develop the local offer and the new approaches.

Clearly implementation of the national funding formula will mean that Warrington should have additional funding, which **may (?)** mean that we do not have the same scale of challenge in the future.

1. Response to overspend in 2016/2017 (predicted: £1.0 million by end of current year)

	Amount/£	Item
1.	520,000	Utilise one-off opportunity of Early Years Funding to “pay back” some of the financial support provided to early years settings in previous years.
2.	181,000	Recovery of past Fox Wood over-allocation of post-16 place funding since move to Woolston.
3.	210,650	Dedelegated primary pupil no. contingency - “unspent”
4.	57,000	Topsliced SEN contingency in secondary phase – “unspent”
Total:	968,650	
Shortfall:	31,350	<i>Against a target of £1.0 million</i>

2. Plan to reduce overall expenditure in 2017/2018

	Amount/£	Item
1.	- 31,350	<i>Carry forward shortfall from 2016/2017</i>
2.	267,000	Early Years expenditure to be met from Early Years Block going forward, effective from 2017/2018 (a)
3.	340,000	Primary Top Up Element 3 (12hour adjustment to 15 hours) in line with other LAs (b)
4.	192,000	Secondary Top Up Element 3 (12hour adjustment to 15 hours) in line with other LAs (b)
5.	30,000	Estimate of in-year effect of 15 hour adjustment (b)
6.	60,000	Green Lane Top Up Reduction by capping contribution to fixed costs (c)
7.	39,000	Fox Wood Correction (Removal of “Pool” lump sum) (c)
8.	167,000	New Horizons Place Reduction – cap support at £560,000 for 56 places (d)
9.	11,000	New Horizons Central funding Reduction post-conversion (d)
10.	11,000	Speech Therapy Contract (d)
11.	-75,000	Increase Professional Capacity – virtual team/resource within schools system (challenge, support, quality assurance etc) – actual amount to be discussed with schools, but suggest useful to build something in at this stage and then agree actual amount when we know what is needed (e) & (f)
Total savings:	1,010,650	
Contingency:	10,650	Therefore nil contribution from Schools Block needed to offset overspend in 16/17 and respond to predicted increased demand in 17/18 at this stage.

Other opportunities to be explored further possibly include: DP Top-ups; SEND Bandings; Hospital fees etc

C C	School	NOR Main School (excluding DP)	Options for contributions from School Budgets 2017/18			Repayment of 2016/17 Contingencies		Net Effect A	Net Effect B	Net Effect C
			A)	B)	C: A) & B) 50:50	Primary Numbers & Classes	Secondary SEN			
35068	Alderman Bolton Community Primary School	284	£3,118	£2,353	£2,736	£3,379		£261	£1,026	£643
35017	Appleton Thorn Primary School	203	£2,229	£2,353	£2,291	£2,416		£187	£63	£125
35056	Barrow Hall Community Primary School	556	£6,105	£2,353	£4,229	£6,616		£511	£4,263	£2,387
35070	Beaumont Community Primary School	389	£4,271	£2,353	£3,312	£4,629		£358	£2,276	£1,317
35001	Bewsey Lodge Primary School	241	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,868		£2,868	£515	£1,691
35060	Birchwood CE Primary School	187	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,225		£2,225	-£128	£1,048
35022	Bradshaw Community Primary School	199	£2,185	£2,353	£2,269	£2,368		£183	£15	£99
35040	Brook Acre Community Primary School	222	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,642		£2,642	£289	£1,465
35019	Broomfields Junior School	367	£4,030	£2,353	£3,192	£4,367		£337	£2,014	£1,175
N/A	Bruche Primary School	207	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,463		£2,463	£110	£1,286
35037	Burtonwood Community Primary School	203	£2,229	£2,353	£2,291	£2,416		£187	£63	£125
35064	Callands Primary School	313	£3,437	£2,353	£2,895	£3,725		£288	£1,372	£830
35054	Chapelford Village Primary School	512	£5,622	£2,353	£3,988	£6,093		£471	£3,740	£2,105
35029	Cherry Tree Primary School	213	£2,339	£2,353	£2,346	£2,535		£196	£182	£189
35038	Christ Church CE Primary School Padgate	317	£3,481	£2,353	£2,917	£3,772		£291	£1,419	£855
35062	Cinnamon Brow CE Primary School	306	£3,360	£2,353	£2,857	£3,641		£281	£1,288	£784
35044	Croft Primary School	210	£2,306	£2,353	£2,330	£2,499		£193	£146	£169
35033	Culcheth Community Primary School	213	£2,339	£2,353	£2,346	£2,535		£196	£182	£189
35002	Dallam Community Primary School	188	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,237		£2,237	-£116	£1,060
N/A	Evelyn Street Primary School	230	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,737		£2,737	£384	£1,560
35032	Glazebury CE (Aided) Primary School	93	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£1,107		£1,107	-£1,246	-£70
35061	Gorse Covert Primary School	306	£3,360	£2,353	£2,857	£3,641		£281	£1,288	£784
35066	Grappenhall Heys Community Primary School	210	£2,306	£2,353	£2,330	£2,499		£193	£146	£169
35021	Grappenhall St Wilfrid's CE Primary School	416	£4,568	£2,353	£3,461	£4,950		£382	£2,597	£1,489
35053	Great Sankey Primary School	312	£3,426	£2,353	£2,890	£3,713		£287	£1,360	£823
35058	Hollins Green St Helen's CE (Aided) Primary School	138	£1,515	£2,353	£1,934	£1,642		£127	-£711	-£292
35067	Latchford St James CE Primary School	187	£2,053	£2,353	£2,203	£2,225		£172	-£128	£22
35045	Locking Stumps Community Primary School	339	£3,722	£2,353	£3,038	£4,034		£312	£1,681	£996
35004	Meadowside Community Primary and Nursery School	215	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,558		£2,558	£205	£1,381
35034	Newchurch Community Primary School	211	£2,317	£2,353	£2,335	£2,511		£194	£158	£176
35005	Oakwood Avenue Community Primary School	545	£5,984	£2,353	£4,169	£6,485		£501	£4,132	£2,316
35031	Oughtrington Community Primary School	419	£4,601	£2,353	£3,477	£4,986		£385	£2,633	£1,509
35011	Our Lady's Catholic Primary School	191	£2,097	£2,353	£2,225	£2,273		£176	-£80	£48
35055	Park Road Community Primary School	207	£2,273	£2,353	£2,313	£2,463		£190	£110	£150
N/A	Penketh Primary School	206	£2,262	£2,353	£2,308	£2,451		£189	£98	£143
35049	Penketh South Community Primary School	174	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,071		£2,071	-£282	£894
35030	Ravenbank Community Primary School	409	£4,491	£2,353	£3,422	£4,867		£376	£2,514	£1,445
35016	St Stephen's Catholic Primary School	209	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,487		£2,487	£134	£1,310
35012	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	199	£2,185	£2,353	£2,269	£2,368		£183	£15	£99
35057	Sankey Valley St. James' CE Primary School	202	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,404		£2,404	£51	£1,227
35013	St Alban's Catholic Primary School	189	£2,075	£2,353	£2,214	£2,249		£174	-£104	£35
35015	St Benedict's Catholic Primary School	206	£2,262	£2,353	£2,308	£2,451		£189	£98	£143
35042	St Bridget's Catholic Primary School	216	£2,372	£2,353	£2,363	£2,570		£198	£217	£207
35006	St Elphin's (Fairfield) CE Vol Aided Primary Sch	385	£4,227	£2,353	£3,290	£4,581		£354	£2,228	£1,291
35047	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	299	£3,283	£2,353	£2,818	£3,558		£275	£1,205	£740
35043	St Lewis Catholic Primary School	198	£2,174	£2,353	£2,264	£2,356		£182	£3	£92
35010	St Margaret's CE Voluntary Aided Primary School	430	£4,721	£2,353	£3,537	£5,117		£396	£2,764	£1,580
35039	St Oswald's Catholic Primary School	212	£2,328	£2,353	£2,341	£2,523		£195	£170	£182
35036	St Paul of the Cross Catholic Primary School	173	£1,900	£2,353	£2,127	£2,059		£159	-£294	-£68
35050	St Peter's Catholic Primary School	215	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,558		£2,558	£205	£1,381
35065	St Philip (Westbrook) CE Aided Primary School	467	£5,128	£2,353	£3,741	£5,557		£429	£3,204	£1,816
35048	St Vincent's Catholic Primary School	249	£2,734	£2,353	£2,544	£2,963		£229	£610	£419
35007	St Andrew's CE Primary School	191	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,273		£2,273	-£80	£1,096
35020	St Monica's Catholic Primary School	201	£2,207	£2,353	£2,280	£2,392		£185	£39	£112
35023	St Thomas' CE Primary School	209	£2,295	£2,353	£2,324	£2,487		£192	£134	£163
35014	St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	147	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£1,749		£1,749	-£604	£572
35028	Statham Community Primary School	192	£2,108	£2,353	£2,231	£2,285		£177	-£68	£54
35024	Stockton Heath Primary School	379	£4,161	£2,353	£3,257	£4,510		£349	£2,157	£1,253
35025	Stretton St Matthew's CE Primary School	203	£2,229	£2,353	£2,291	£2,416		£187	£63	£125
35018	The Cobbs Infant and Nursery School	264	£2,899	£2,353	£2,626	£3,141		£242	£788	£515
35027	Thelwall Community Infant School	124	£1,362	£2,353	£1,858	£1,476		£114	-£877	-£382
35026	Thelwall Community Junior School	162	£1,779	£2,353	£2,066	£1,928		£149	-£425	-£138
35035	Twiss Green Community Primary School	211	£2,317	£2,353	£2,335	£2,511		£194	£158	£176
35008	Warrington St Ann's CE Primary School	198	£0	£2,353	£1,177	£2,356		£2,356	£3	£1,179
35009	Warrington St Barnabas' CE Primary School	198	£2,174	£2,353	£2,264	£2,356		£182	£3	£92
35063	Westbrook Old Hall Primary School	412	£4,524	£2,353	£3,439	£4,903		£379	£2,550	£1,464
35059	Winwick CE Primary School	186	£2,042	£2,353	£2,198	£2,213		£171	-£140	£15
35052	Woolston CE Aided Primary School	213	£2,339	£2,353	£2,346	£2,535		£196	£182	£189
35051	Woolston Community Primary School	228	£2,503	£2,353	£2,428	£2,713		£210	£360	£285
35121	Cardinal Newman Catholic High School	774	£7,190	£8,101	£7,646		£3,851	-£3,339	-£4,250	-£3,795
35103	Culcheth High School	1,113	£10,340	£8,101	£9,221		£5,538	-£4,802	-£2,563	-£3,683
35115	Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School	525	£4,877	£8,101	£6,489		£2,612	-£2,265	-£5,489	-£3,877
35107	St Gregory's Catholic High School	887	£8,240	£8,101	£8,171		£4,413	-£3,827	-£3,688	-£3,758
N/A	Beaumont Collegiate Academy	806	£7,488	£8,101	£7,795		£4,010	-£3,478	-£4,091	-£3,785
N/A	Birchwood Community High School	889	£8,259	£8,101	£8,180		£4,423	-£3,836	-£3,678	-£3,757
N/A	Bridgewater High School	1,485	£13,796	£8,101	£10,949		£7,389	-£6,407	-£7,112	-£3,560
N/A	Future Tech Studio School	147	£0	£8,101	£4,051		£731	£731	-£7,370	-£3,230
N/A	Great Sankey High School	1,506	£13,991	£8,101	£11,046		£7,493	-£6,498	-£608	-£3,553
N/A	King's Leadership Academy Warrington	503	£4,673	£8,101	£6,387		£2,503	-£2,170	-£5,598	-£3,884
N/A	Lymm High School	1,474	£13,693	£8,101	£10,897		£7,334	-£6,359	-£767	-£3,563
N/A	Penketh High School	979	£9,095	£8,101	£8,598		£4,871	-£4,224	-£3,230	-£3,727
N/A	University Academy Warrington	397	£3,688	£8,101	£5,895		£1,975	-£1,713	-£6,126	-£3,920
		29,190	£267,684	£267,670	£267,700	£210,684	£57,143			

Amount to Recover (Global)	£267,650
Amount to Recover (Sector Proportionate) Lump Sum: Primary	£162,341
Amount to Recover (Sector Proportionate) Lump Sum: Secondary	£105,309
A) AWPU reduction (taking account of MFG): Primary	£10.98
AWPU reduction (taking account of MFG): Secondary	£9.29
B) Lump Sum Reduction: Primary	£2,353
Lump Sum Reduction: Secondary	£8,101
Allocate Unspent Contingency: Primary AWPU	£11.90
Allocate Unspent Contingency: Secondary AWPU	£4.97