

NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA



CONSULTATION ON THE FUNDING OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES FROM 2021/22

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I. FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce this year's Consultation on the funding of Maintained Schools and Academies in Plymouth from 2021/22.

Supporting our schools in overcoming the mounting challenges has been in the forefront of our minds when allocating funding locally. The Education Services Grant (ESG) General Fund has historically been paid to Local Authorities to carry out statutory responsibilities for schools. However, this grant ceased in September 2017. Plymouth's education services previously funded by this grant are currently £1.7m and include a £1.4m schools pension legacy cost (some of which relate to maintained schools who have since converted to academies). Central Government recognised that these services will have to be funded and have therefore permitted local authorities to charge maintained schools via the National Funding Formula. However, Plymouth City Council have taken the decision again that this burden should not be placed back onto maintained schools and the Local Authority will make the £1.7m annual investment. This will ease the pressure on maintained schools to pay for the pension legacy costs and fund essential computer systems, including data storage, statutory budgeting and accounting functions and asset management services for maintained schools.

Many Local Authorities across the Country have struggled to keep control of the High Needs block budget due to increases in demand, complexity and cost and have therefore had to make the decision to transfer funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block as part of their Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan. We are all aware that the work funded through the High Needs Block is ongoing and will need great attention in the coming months and years in order to balance controlling spend with ensuring the needs of Plymouth children are met. I am very pleased to say that, through the joint effort of the School Funding Forum and the City Council, Plymouth are once again presenting a school funding proposal that will eliminate the need to transfer funding from schools to high needs in 2021/22. This means that schools will receive their full funding allocation.

Councillor Jon Taylor
Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Transformation

2. SUMMARY

Summary

- 2.1. Central Government have released provisional funding allocations for 2021/22 for the DSG Schools Block, High Needs Block and Central School Services Block (CSSB).
- 2.2. Central Government have stated “we appreciate that there will be limitations in the way local authorities are currently able to work due to the COVID-19 situation. However, local authorities must do their best, within the circumstances, to engage in open and transparent consultation with all maintained schools and academies in their area, as well as with their schools forums, about any proposed changes to the local funding formula, including the principles adopted and any movement of funds between blocks.”
- 2.3. Final allocations will be issued to Local Authorities in December 2020, based on pupils recorded in the October 2020 census.
- 2.4. In 2021/22, the NFF will set notional allocations for each school, which will be aggregated, and used to calculate the total schools block received by each local authority. Each local authority will continue to set a local schools formula, in consultation with local schools.
- 2.5. Key aspects of the schools NFF for 2021/22 are;
- 2.6. The Teachers’ Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers’ Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG), including the supplementary fund, have been incorporated into the National Funding Formula (NFF), by adding a per pupil amount of £180 for primary and £265 for secondary onto the age-weight pupil unit (AWPU) and the minimum per pupil funding levels. These amounts have also been added to the 2020/21 baselines which is used to calculate the funding floor to ensure the teachers pay and pension grant funding is protected. The per pupil amounts reflect the current rates schools have received in 2020/21.
 - The minimum per pupil funding levels for 2021/22 are;
 - £4,180 for each Primary Pupil
 - £5,415 for each Secondary Pupil

Minimum per pupil levels for 2020/21 are £3,750 for Primary pupils and £5,000 for Secondary pupils.
 - The funding floor will be set at 2% per pupil, broadly in line with current inflation forecasts to protect per pupil allocations for all schools in real terms.
 - Schools that are attracting their core NFF allocations will benefit from an increase of 3% to the formula’s core factors. Exceptions to this are the free school meals factor, which will be increased at the forecasted rate of inflation (2%) as it is intended to broadly reflect actual costs, and premises funding will continue to be allocated at local authority level on the basis of actual spend in the 2020 to 2021 Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT), with an RPIX increase for the PFI factor only.
 - The deprivation factor which is measured by Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) has been updated based on 2019 datasets. Pupils are now allocated to IDACI bands based on a rank rather than a score. This helps to ensure that the proportion of pupils attracting funding through each band will remain broadly unchanged from 2020/21.
 - The sparsity factor has increased from £26,000 to £45,000 for primary schools, and from £67,600 to £70,000 for secondary schools. This is the first step to improving the support the NFF provides to small and remote schools. This factor does not apply to Plymouth schools.

- Local authorities are unable to use the summer 2020 assessment data to allocate funding through the low prior attainment factor due to COVID-19. Instead, the 2019 assessment data will be used for the reception and year 6 cohort in the funding formula.
- Local authorities will continue to be able to transfer up to 0.5% of their school block to other blocks of the DSG, with schools forum approval. The total schools block available for such transfer must exclude the additional funding for the teachers' pay and pension grant, as all of this funding must remain with schools.
- In 2021/22, as in previous years, each local authority will continue to set a local schools formula, in consultation with local schools. The government has confirmed its intention to move to a single 'hard' NFF to determine every school's budget in the future.
- The minimum funding guarantee (MFG) for schools will continue, and local authorities continue to have the flexibility to set a local MFG between +0.5% and +2% per pupil.

2.7. Detailed information regarding all of the changes to the 2021/22 NFF can be found within [Schools revenue funding 2021 to 2022 Operational guide](#)

3. PLYMOUTH'S FUNDING FORMULA

3.1. The table below shows Plymouth's provisional allocations for 2021/22 compared to 2020/21.

	2020/21 Baseline	2020/21 Per Pupil	2021/22 Provisional	2021/22 Per Pupil	Increase/ (Decrease) in Provisional Allocation	Increase/ (Decrease) in Per Pupil Amount
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Schools Block	170,489,400*	4,925	176,695,650**	5,103	6,206,250	178.03
High Needs Block	34,026,015	n/a	37,796,919	n/a	3,770,904	-
Central Schools Services Block	3,209,801	n/a	2,845,140	n/a	(364,661)	-
Total	207,725,216		217,337,709		9,612,493	

*2020/21 baselines are based on the number on roll (NOR) from the 2019-20 APT, including implicit growth. These figures have been uplifted to include the teachers' pay and pension grants.

**2021/22 provisional allocations are based on the October 2019 census, which excludes implicit growth.

Schools Block

- Plymouth will see a 3.6% increase (£178.03) in per pupil funding, compared against the 2020/21 baseline (excluding growth funding).
- The average per pupil increase nationally is 3.1% (Plymouth 3.6%), average increase per pupil is £157.96 (Plymouth £178.03), average per pupil funding for 2021/22 is £5,301 (Plymouth £5,103).

High Needs Block

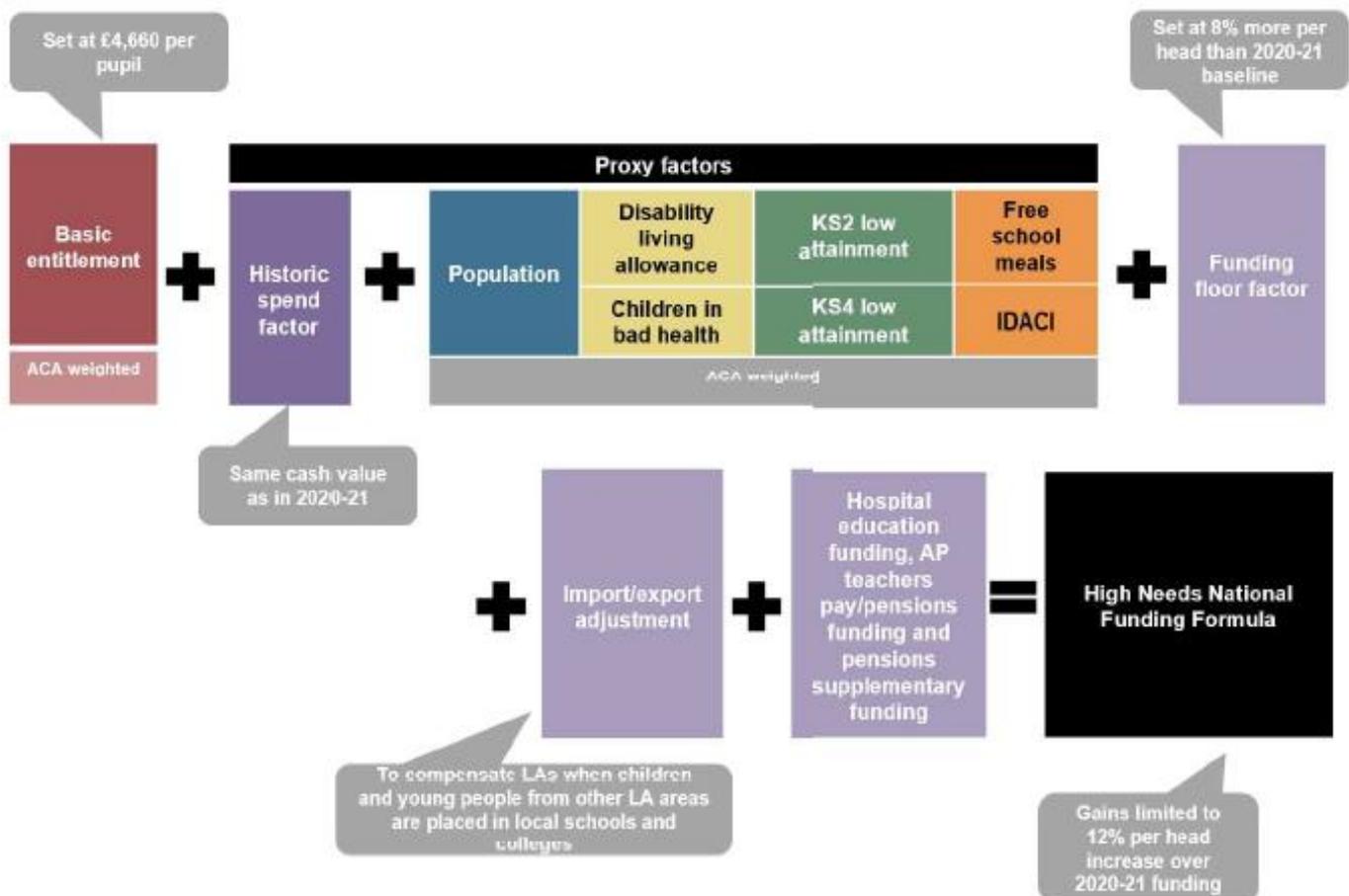
- Plymouth's High Needs Block funding will increase by £3.771m in 2021/22, an increase of 11%.
- The average increase nationally is 11.18%, per pupil comparison is not available for High Needs Block.
- Locally, Cornwall is getting an increase of £6.879m (13.52%), Devon is getting £9.099m (11.95%) and Torbay is getting £2.086m (10.90%).

Central Schools Services Block

- Funding for the Central Schools Services Block has decreased by £0.365m. Whilst funding for ongoing commitments has increased slightly (£0.056m), historic commitment funding has decreased by £0.421m, due to the unwinding of historic commitments.

4. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

- 4.1. The high needs block supports provision for pupils and students with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities (SEND), from age 0 to 25, and alternative provision (AP) for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, cannot receive their education in mainstream schools.
- 4.2. The funding floor ensures that all local authorities' allocations per head of population will increase by a minimum percentage compared to the baseline. For 2021-22 the funding floor will continue to be set at 8% so each local authority can plan for an increase of at least that percentage, taking into account changes in their 2 to 18 population (as estimated by the ONS).
- 4.3. The limit on gains is set at 12% per head of population compared to the baseline, allowing authorities to see up to this percentage increase under the formula before their gains are capped.
- 4.4. Prior to 2018/19 High Needs funding had been allocated based on historic spending levels, rather than need. High Needs funding allocations are now calculated based on a formula which is intended to provide a more rational basis for funding which reflects the level of need.
- 4.5. The basic structure of the high needs NFF is not changing for 2021-22. The figure applied to the basic entitlement and proxy factors:



- 4.6 Nationally, High Needs funding will increase by a further £730m in 2021/22, compared to 2020/21 baselines. Plymouth's High Needs Block funding will increase by £3.770m in 2021/22, an increase of 11%.
- 4.7 The basic entitlement per pupil amount will increase from £4,000 to £4,660 for special schools. This factor has increased by £660 to incorporate the Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant from 2021/22.
- 4.8 The average increase nationally is 11.18%, per pupil comparison is not available for High Needs Block.
- 4.9 Locally, Cornwall is getting an increase of £6.879m (13.52%), Devon is getting £9.099m (11.95%) and Torbay is getting £2.086m (10.90%).
- 4.10 The final High Needs Block will differ slightly from these figures as some elements of the formula will change before the final allocations are made.
- 4.11 Further details regarding the High Needs Block for 2021/22 can be found within [High Needs Funding 2021 to 2022 Operational Guide](#).

Recommendations

- 4.12 It is proposed that the full High Needs Block allocation is allocated to the High Needs Block and that Plymouth continue to work with institutions that have pupils or students with high needs to ensure an effective and sustainable processes for allocating High Needs funding. This will be done via High Needs Budget Modelling Groups who will report back to Schools Forum.

5. CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK

- 5.1 The CSSB within the DSG will continue to provide funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies. The block will continue to comprise two distinct elements: ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments.
- 5.2 Central government has published provisional NFF allocations for the CSSB. Final allocations will be available in December, based on pupil numbers from the October 20 census.
- 5.3 Central Government will continue to reduce the historic commitments element of the block by 20% in 2021/22

LA name	Provisional NFF funding in 2021/22			
	Per-pupil rate for ongoing functions	2020/21 DSG schools block pupils	Total funding for historic commitments	Total central school services block funding
Plymouth	£33.53	34,626	£1,684,198	£2,845,140

Ongoing Commitments

- 5.4 Plymouth's 2021/22 indicative allocation for ongoing functions is £1.161m. It covers the following costs:

Function	2020/21 Final allocation	2021/22 indicative allocation
Retained ESG	£0.601m*	£0.665m
Admissions	£0.282m	£0.282m (historic)
Copyright Licenses	£0.193m	£0.197m based on 20/21 plus 2%
Schools Forum	£0.028m	£0.017m**
Total	£1.104m	£1.161m

*the actual figure used to fund services in 2020/21 was £0.743m as £0.142m was funded from the historic commitments element of the Central Schools Services Grant. Appendix C details the £0.719m expected spend based on the revised restructure.

**the balancing figure of £0.028m was allocated to Schools Forum in 2020/21. However, current budget monitoring shows that this has not been spent and will therefore be added to the DSG carry forward. It is expected that only £0.017m will be required in 2021/22

- 5.5 Funding for ongoing responsibilities is distributed based on a formula. 90% of funding is distributed according to a per pupil factor and 10% through a deprivation factor. £0.682

- 5.6 The allocation notification no longer breaks down funding into the functions that make up the block, instead a per-pupil rate is set and uplifted. In 2021/22 this rate is £33.53 per pupil.
- 5.7 Transitional protections are in place for ongoing responsibilities; reductions are limited to 2.5% per pupil in 2021/22 and gains of up to 6.45% per pupil will be allowed.
- 5.8 It is proposed to allocate the ongoing commitments in 2021/22 as per the table above (4.4). However, figures may change slightly once actual allocations are confirmed by Central Government in December 2020.

Historic Commitments

- 5.9 Central Government reduced historic commitment funding allocations by 20% in 2020/21. This reduction will continue in 2021/22, as a further 20% is applied 2020/21 baselines.
- 5.10 Central Government has removed the protection that was applied in 2020/21 to limit the historic commitment reduction to 0.5% of the schools block allocation.
- 5.11 Plymouth's initial allocations for 2021/22 is £1.684m, compared to £2.105m received in 2020/21. The table below shows how this funding was allocated in 2020/21, along with proposed allocations for 2021/22;

Function	2020/21 final allocation	2021/22 Proposed allocation
Retained ESG top up	£0.142m	£0.054
Sports Facility	£0.110m	£0.110m
Pensions	£0.634m	£0.634m
Prudential Borrowing	£0.512m	£0.512m
Distributed to schools to fund work previously done by the Excellence Cluster	£0.707m	£0.374m
Total	£2.105m	£1.684m

Retained ESG Duties

- 5.12 The ongoing function funding within the Central Services Block includes £0.665m for retained ESG duties funding. Since 2017/18 this element was funded through DSG and approved for the use by the Local Authority to meet statutory and regulatory obligations for both Academies and Maintained Schools. Historically this funding has gone directly to the Local Authority. The same approval is required in 2021/22. Appendix C shows the services which are covered by this funding at an estimated cost of £0.719m in 2021/22. However, this will leave a balance of £0.054m of unfunded services provided for all schools within the Local Authority.
- 5.13 Central Government guidance lists the responsibilities local authorities hold for all schools (maintained and academies) and state that these can be funded by the CSSB (please see the ESFA's Schools revenue funding Operational guide link below, Annex 2 'responsibilities held for all schools page 67 and 68)
- [Schools revenue funding 2021 to 2022 Operational guide](#)
- 5.14 It is therefore proposed that £0.054m of the historic commitment previously used to fund the Excellence Cluster is used to ensure that the Local Authority can continue to provide these services in 2021/22. This will not reduce schools budgets as funding will be taken from the remaining balance

previously used to fund the Excellence Cluster. As detailed in section 7, the Local Authority is not proposing to charge schools individually for the cessation of the ESG general funding grant (placing an additional burden of £1.7m on the Local Authority each year to fund commitments including £1.4m of teachers' pension costs). This does leave a gap in budget resource that needs to be bridged if some services are to continue. The proposal is therefore that £0.054m is contributed to go some way towards funding currently unfunded services. This obviates the need to charge individual schools.

Sports Facility

5.15 The School Sports Partnership funding of £0.110m will be funding via the Central Services block. The contract is ongoing throughout the whole of 2021/22.

Pension Costs and Prudential Borrowing

5.16 The above costs will be funded via the Central Services block. They are ongoing school related costs for teachers' pensions and the prudential borrowing costs relating to school building costs. These commitments are ongoing.

Funding previously attributed to the Excellence Cluster

5.17 The 2021/22 provisional CSSB historic commitments allocation shows that there should be £0.374m funding remaining which was previously used to fund the Excellence Cluster. It was previously expected that Central Government would cease this funding as the contract has now ended. However, in 2020/21 and 2021/22 they have decided to reduce all Local Authorities allocation by 20%. This will therefore leave a balance of funding which was previously used to fund the Excellence Cluster.

5.18 It is proposed that for 2021/22, this funding is transferred to the high needs block and then distributed between all schools funded via the DSG schools block, both primary and secondary to fund their own Early Help offer. This would equate to approximately £10 per pupil (this figure will be updated to reflect the October 2020 census date in December 2020). It should be noted that this option would not benefit from any economies of scale which a pooled approach would bring. As in 2019/20 and 2020/21, this arrangement would involve individual schools producing a statement at year end confirming that this funding has been used on early help.

Recommendations

5.19 Agree that CSSB ongoing commitments is allocated as per table 4.4 in 2021/22

5.20 Agree that CSSB historic commitments is allocated as per table 4.11 in 2021/22

6. PLYMOUTH SCHOOLS BLOCK

- 6.1. Central Government have advised that each local authority will continue to set a local schools formula, in consultation with local schools in 2021/22.
- 6.2. It is proposed to continue to mirror the NFF within Plymouth's local funding formula in 2021/22. Central Government has issued guidance on all of the factors within the NFF 2021/22. These can be found within the Schools revenue funding 2021 to 2022 Operational guide (link included in point 1.7). However, the main changes are detailed below;
- 6.3. The Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG), including the supplementary fund, have been incorporated into the NFF, by adding a per pupil amount of £180 for primary and £265 for secondary onto the AVPU and the minimum per pupil funding levels. These amounts have also been added to the 2020/21 baselines which is used to calculate the funding floor to ensure the grants are protected. The per pupil amounts reflect the current rates schools have received in 2020/21.
- 6.4. In 2021/22 the minimum per pupil funding level for secondary schools will increase to £5,415 and the minimum per pupil funding level for primary schools will increase to £4,180. These per pupil amounts have been uplifted to include the teachers' pay and pension grants (2020/21 minimum funding levels are currently £5,000 and £3,750 per pupil).
- 6.5. The funding floor will be set at 2% per pupil, broadly in line with current inflation forecasts to protect per pupil allocations for all schools in real terms.
- 6.6. Schools that are attracting their core NFF allocations will benefit from an increase of 3% to the formula's core factors. Exceptions to this are the free school meals factor, which will be increased at the forecasted rate of inflation (2%) as it is intended to broadly reflect actual costs, and premises funding will continue to be allocated at local authority level on the basis of actual spend in the 2020 to 2021 APT, with an RPIX increase for the PFI factor only.
- 6.7. The sparsity factor has increased from £26,000 to £45,000 for primary schools, and from £67,600 to £70,000 for secondary schools. This is the first step to improving the support the NFF provides to small and remote schools. This factor does not apply to Plymouth schools.
- 6.8. Local authorities can continue to transfer up to 0.5% of their school block to other blocks of the DSG, with schools forum approval.
- 6.9. The MFG for schools will continue, and local authorities continue to have the flexibility to set a local MFG between +0.5% and +2% per pupil. As Plymouth are proposing to continue to mirror the NFF, the MFG would be set at +2% ensuring that all schools receive an increase of 2% on pupil led funding compared to 2020/21 baselines.

Premises funding – Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and the Exceptional Premises Factor

- 6.10. The PFI factor allocates funding to Plymouth's PFI schools; Riverside Community Primary, Whiteleigh Community Primary and Sir John Hunt Community College to cover unavoidable extra premises costs, as a result of the PFI contract.

- 6.11. Prior year allocations have been based on historically agreed amounts which are uplifted in line with RPIX. It is proposed to continue using this methodology in 2021/22.
- 6.12. However, local authorities may also use the PFI factor to delegate the PFI 'affordability gap' to schools which is subsequently paid back to the local authority. Plymouth's forecasted affordability gap up to the end of the PFI contract is £3.789m. It is proposed to increase funding through the PFI factor to cover this budget gap.
- 6.13. The budget gap attributable to 2021/22 is £256,168. This amount will be increased by RPIX on an annual basis to ensure the full affordability gap is repaid to the local authority by the end of the contract.
- 6.14. This additional funding will be allocated to PFI schools on a per pupil basis. The 2021/22 per pupil amount is £163.79 based pupil numbers from the October 2019 census. Please note, final allocations will be updated using pupil numbers from the October 2020 census.
- 6.15. All schools within a PFI contract should receive funding on an equivalent basis. Therefore, Woodlands Special School will also receive an additional allocation for the affordability gap through the High Needs Block.
- 6.16. The table below shows a breakdown of funding that will be allocated to PFI schools through this factor.

School	NOR	Historic allocation (RPIX 1.56%) (£)	Additional allocation to cover affordability gap (£)	Total funding through the PFI factor (£)
Whitleigh	356	91,247	58,307	149,554
Riverside	500	94,630	81,893	176,523
Sir John Hunt	678	306,119	111,046	417,165
Woodlands*	85	170,249	13,922	184,171
Total		662,245	£265,168	927,413

* PFI funding for Woodlands will be funded from the High Needs Block.

- 6.17. The additional allocation (£265,168) will be re-paid to the local authority by an annual recharge to schools, resulting in a net nil impact on the schools financial position.
- 6.18. The additional allocation for mainstream PFI schools (£251,254) will be funded by un-allocated exceptional premises funding within the schools block. This represents funding the local authority has continued to receive in 2021/22 for the hire of an offsite sports facility for one school, despite this contract coming to an end in December 2020.
- 6.19. This proposal does not impact individual budgets for non-PFI schools and all mainstream schools will continue to receive their full entitlement under the NFF.
- 6.20. This increase to the PFI factor will be fully funded from 2022/23 as the full amount will be built into the local authorities NFF allocation, including an uplift for RPIX.

Growth Funding

- 6.21. Growth funding is within local authorities' schools block NFF allocations. For 2021/22, it will be calculated using the same methodology as in 2020/21, based on the growth in pupil numbers between the October 2019 and October 2020 censuses.
- 6.22. Local authorities will continue to receive growth funding protection in 2021/22 due to the 0.5% capping factor which restricts funding reductions to 0.5% of the 2020/21 schools block allocation. Central Government have not published provisional growth allocations because, as they are determined by October 2020 pupil numbers.
- 6.23. As it is within the schools block, a movement of funding from the schools formula into the growth fund would not be treated as a transfer between blocks.
- 6.24. For 2020/21, it was agreed to include estimate growth on the APT for all growing schools, this left £0.324m remaining to fund in year growth adjustments, as per the growth fund policy.
- 6.25. It is anticipated that growth fund requirements will reduce significantly in 2021/22. This is because 3 primary schools are due to complete their expansion and 1 secondary school has ceased to meet the growth fund criteria due to reducing numbers on roll. Pupil up take within growing secondary schools is also less than anticipated due to the impact of University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools.
- 6.26. For 2021/22 it is proposed to continue to fund all estimated growth on the APT and allocate the remaining balance to the in-year growth fund. The remaining balance is currently £0.180m and is expected to cover in year growth adjustments for 2021/22. However, this allocation will be updated in December 2020 once Central Government have updated funding allocations to reflect the October 2020 census.
- 6.27. Appendix A APT is currently based on 2020/21 pupil numbers which includes an estimate for 2020/21 growth for the following schools; Pennycross Primary School, Oreston Community Academy, Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Pomphlett Primary School, St Matthews C of E Primary School, UTC Plymouth, Plymstock School, Plympton Academy and Stoke Damerel Community College . Please note, some growing schools mentioned above no longer meet the growth fund criteria and will receive final funding allocations based on the October 2020 census.

Estimated 2021/22 School Budgets

- 6.28. 2021/22 estimated budgets by school are shown in Appendix A and Appendix B. Appendix A compares individual school budgets for 2021/22 to 2020/21 budgets and Appendix B shows a summary of the budget allocation for 2021/22. 2021/22 budget figures have been estimated based on the information which we have at this time. Both appendices will be subject to change in December 2020 once we have received updated information from Central Government based on the October 20 census. Final figures will be approved by Schools Forum in January 2021 and sent to the ESFA for final approval. Maintained schools will be notified of final 2020/21 school budget shares by 28th February 2021. Please note that these appendices do not include the £0.374m funding previously attributed to the Excellence Cluster which has been proposed to be allocated to all schools (as per point 4.17) as this funding will be transferred to the High Needs Block and allocated to schools outside the APT.

6.29. The NFF has been used to estimate 2021/22 individual school budget allocations using the estimated total schools block allocation of £178m. Please note that all figures are based on October 19 census information and historical growth for schools who have previously received growth funding via the APT and therefore will be subject to change.

Recommendations

6.30. It is proposed to continue to adopt the NFF method of allocation in 2021/22.

6.31. It is proposed to fund estimated growth for all growing schools on the APT and allocate the remaining balance of £0.180m to the in-year growth fund. Please note, the in-year growth allocation will be updated in December 20 based on the final Schools Block allocations.

6.32. It is proposed to increase the PFI factor by £251,254 for mainstream schools in order to de-delegate the PFI affordability gap which will be paid back to the local authority by an annual recharge to schools. This will be funded by the exceptional premises funding which has been allocated to Plymouth's school block in 2021/22. Non-PFI schools are not impacted by this factor and all schools will continue to receive their full NFF allocation.

6.33. Please note that all of these figures are only estimates and will change once pupil data has been updated with the October 20 census information. Increases/decreases may have to be made to the basic entitlement factor for Primary School, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils to ensure affordability. Final figures will be approved by Schools Forum.

7. DE-DELEGATION

- 7.1. Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be de-delegated for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with schools forum approval. **De-delegation is not an option for special schools, nursery schools and PRUs.** Where de-delegation has been agreed for maintained primary and secondary schools, local authorities can offer the service on a buy-back basis to those schools and academies in their area which are not covered by the de-delegation. In the case of special schools and PRUs, the funding to buy such services will be included in any top-up payments.
- 7.2. New decisions will be required for any service to be de-delegated in 2021/22. Schools forum members for primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools must decide separately for each phase whether the service should be provided centrally, and the decision will apply to all maintained mainstream schools in that phase. Funding for these services will then be removed from the formula before school budgets are issued. There may be different decisions for each phase. The services which may be de-delegated include;
- Additional school improvement services
 - Contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)
 - Behaviour support services
 - Support to underperforming ethnic groups and bilingual learners
 - Free school meals eligibility
 - Insurance
 - Museum and library services
 - Licenses/subscriptions
 - Staff costs supply cover (e.g. long-term sickness, maternity, trade union and public duties)
- 7.3. From 2017 to 2018, schools forums have been able to agree to de-delegate further funding for additional school improvement provision for maintained schools. This provision sits alongside the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant for statutory local authority intervention functions.
- 7.4. De-delegation arrangements for 2021/22 schools converting to academy status are shown below;

Conversion date	De-delegation arrangements
On, or before, 1 April 2021	No de-delegation
2 April 2021 to 1 September 2021	Local authority retains any de-delegated funding until 1 September 2021
2 September 2021 to 21 March 2022	Local authority retains any de-delegated funding until 31 March 2022

- 7.5. This will help services to plan their future operations. After the dates specified, the academy will receive the full formula allocation and this will be recouped from the local authority.
- 7.6. Where there has been agreement that a school is entitled to receive an allocation from a de-delegated contingency fund, that agreement should be honoured if the school converts to an academy at any point in the year. Where a school converts to an academy in the period 2 April 2021 to 1 September 2021,

local authorities will have an opportunity to present an evidence based case to the ESFA to request a recoupment adjustment for the period 2 September 2021 to 31 March 2022.

- 7.7. Any unspent de-delegated funding remaining at the year-end should be reported to schools forum. Funding may be carried forward to the following funding period as with any other centrally retained budget, and can be used specifically for de-delegated services if the authority wishes.
- 7.8. Any decisions made to de-delegate in 2020/21 related to that year only, so new decisions will be required for any service to be de-delegated in 2021/22.
- 7.9. Primary Schools and Secondary Schools can make separate decisions regarding the continuation of de-delegating services.
- 7.10. In 2019/20 it was agreed to stop all de-delegated costs.
- 7.11. It is proposed that no de-delegation costs are included in the consultation proposals for 2021/22 for maintained primary schools and maintained secondary schools.

Recommendation

- 7.12. No de-delegation costs are included in 2021/22 budget allocations for maintained primary or maintained secondary schools

8. SERVICES FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

- 8.1. Local Authorities are able to fund services previously funded from the general funding rate of the ESG (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budget shares with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum.
- 8.2. The amount to be retained by the local authority will need to be agreed by the relevant maintained schools members of the schools forum (primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units (PRUs). If the local authority and schools forum are unable to reach a consensus on the amount to be retained by the local authority, the matter can be referred to the Secretary of State.
- 8.3. Local Authorities should set a single rate per 5 to 16 year old pupil for all mainstream maintained schools, both primary and secondary. In the interests of simplicity, this should be deducted from basic entitlement funding. Adjustments to other factors will not be allowed and the rate will not include early years or post-16 pupils, who are in any case funded through different formulae. Local authorities may choose to establish differential rates for special schools and PRUs if the cost of fulfilling the duty is substantially different for these schools. The rate will be expressed per place rather than per pupil for special schools and PRUs.
- 8.4. As with de-delegation, the amount to be held by the local authority will be determined after MFG has been applied.
- 8.5. If a school converts to academy status, the amount retained for that school will be recouped from the local authority's DSG for the remaining months of the financial year that the school is an academy. The academy will be reimbursed in its monthly general annual grant (GAG) payment from the point of conversion. Unlike for de-delegated services, there will be no phased transfer of funding following conversion so there will be immediate recoupment of this part of the budget. For example, if a school converts on 1st January 2021, 3/12ths of the retained amount relating to that school will be recouped.
- 8.6. Appendix D shows the total ESG local authority spend on services previously funded via the ESG general funding rate grant is estimated at £1.7m in 2021/22. As detailed, this commitment includes £1.4m of teachers' pension legacy costs which relate to various schools (some of which have since converted to Academies).
- 8.7. Plymouth City Council have covered the loss of the grant since the removal of the ESG (general funding). This has placed a pressure on Council budgets of £1.7m each year.
- 8.8. We do not intend at this stage to charge maintained schools for the loss in ESG in 2021/22 but ask that you comment on the impact that you believe it would have, should we need to move to this position. It is important please that you recognise that we have not passed this loss to you and that you support our efforts with DFE by acknowledging the impact the reduction in funding has on our city system.
- 8.9. Plymouth are not proposing to charge maintained schools in 2021/22 for the Local Authority's £1.7m loss in income due to the cessation of the ESG general fund grant.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1. It is proposed that the full High Needs Block allocation is allocated to the High Needs Block and that Plymouth continue to work with institutions that have pupils or students with high needs to ensure an effective and sustainable processes for allocating High Needs funding. This will be done via High Needs Budget Modelling Groups who will report back to Schools Forum.

9.2. Agree that CSSB ongoing commitments is allocated as per table 4.4 (replicated below) in 2021/22;

Function	2020/21 Final allocation	2021/22 indicative allocation
Retained ESG	£0.601m	£0.665m
Admissions	£0.282m	£0.282m (historic)
Copyright Licenses	£0.193m	£0.197m based on 20/21 plus 2%
Schools Forum	£0.028m	£0.017m
Total	£1.104m	£1.161m

9.3. Agree that CSSB historic commitments is allocated as per table 4.11 (replicated below) in 2021/22;

Function	2020/21 final allocation	2021/22 Proposed allocation
Retained ESG top up	£0.142m	£0.054
Sports Facility	£0.110m	£0.110m
Pensions	£0.634m	£0.634m
Prudential Borrowing	£0.512m	£0.512m
Distributed to schools to fund work previously done by the Excellence Cluster	£0.707m	£0.374m
Total	£2.105m	£1.684m

9.4 It is proposed to continue to adopt the NFF method of allocation in 2021/22.

9.5 It is proposed to fund estimated growth for all growing schools on the APT and allocate the remaining balance of £0.180m to the in-year growth fund. Please note, the in-year growth allocation will be updated in December 20 based on the final Schools Block allocations.

- 9.6 It is proposed to increase the PFI factor by £251,254 for mainstream schools in order to de-delegate the PFI affordability gap which will be paid back to the local authority by an annual recharge to schools. This will be funded by the exceptional premises funding which has been allocated to Plymouth's school block in 2021/22. Non-PFI schools are not impacted by this factor and all schools will continue to receive their full NFF allocation.
- 9.7 Please note that all of these figures are only estimates and will change once pupil data has been updated with the October 20 census information. Increases/decreases may have to be made to the basic entitlement factor for Primary School, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils to ensure affordability. Final figures will be approved by Schools Forum.
- 9.8 It is proposed that no de-delegation costs are included in 2021/22 budget allocations for maintained primary or maintained secondary schools
- 9.9 Plymouth are not proposing to charge maintained schools in 2021/22 for the Local Authority's £1.7m loss in income due to the cessation of the ESG general fund grant.

Please note that all of these figures are only estimates and will change once pupil data has been updated with the October 20 census information. Increases/decreases may have to be made to the basic entitlement factor for Primary School, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils to ensure affordability. Final figures will be approved by Schools Forum.

Any comments/responses to this consultation document should be emailed to schoolsfinance@plymouth.gov.uk by 9am on 11th December 2020 at the latest.

Appendix A – Estimated 2021/22 budgets compared to 2020/21 baselines

Please note, individual school budgets for 2021/22 are based on 2020/21 pupil numbers and will be updated in December based on the October 2020 census.

*2020/21 Post MFG baselines have been uplifted to include the Teachers' Pay Grant and the Teachers' Pension Grant, including the supplementary fund.

School	2020/21 Post MFG Budget*	2021/22 Indicative Post MFG Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Increase/ (Decrease) (%)
	£171,621,351	£177,844,770	£6,223,419	
College Road Primary School	£949,739	£969,979	£20,240	2.13%
Laira Green Primary School	£1,312,411	£1,356,621	£44,211	3.37%
Pennycross Primary School	£1,651,467	£1,704,842	£53,375	3.23%
Lipson Vale Primary School	£1,704,331	£1,758,902	£54,570	3.20%
Tor Bridge Primary School	£818,107	£852,824	£34,717	4.24%
Yealmpstone Farm Primary School	£895,170	£920,883	£25,712	2.87%
Whitleigh Community Primary School	£1,783,515	£1,881,736	£98,221	5.51%
Compton CofE Primary School	£1,757,473	£1,867,660	£110,187	6.27%
St Andrew's C of E VA Primary School	£961,489	£978,228	£16,739	1.74%
Mary Dean's CofE Primary School	£1,257,681	£1,332,361	£74,680	5.94%
St Budeaux Foundation CofE (Aided) Junior School	£692,393	£710,267	£17,875	2.58%
St Peter's CofE Primary School	£824,166	£854,416	£30,250	3.67%
Riverside Community Primary School	£2,547,404	£2,691,962	£144,558	5.67%
High View School	£1,513,753	£1,567,492	53,739	3.55%
Plymouth High School for Girls	£3,193,028	£3,282,779	£89,751	2.81%
Sir John Hunt Community Sports College	£4,615,866	£4,853,480	£237,614	5.15%
Mayflower Academy	£1,851,221	£1,905,880	54,658	2.95%
St George's CofE Primary Academy	£508,869	£523,474	£14,606	2.87%
St Matthew's Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy	£1,700,742	£1,811,782	£111,040	6.53%
St Paul's Roman Catholic Primary School	£838,601	£861,270	£22,669	2.70%
Austin Farm Academy	£794,964	£811,430	£16,466	2.07%
Woodford Primary School	£1,755,197	£1,866,525	£111,328	6.34%
Goosewell Primary Academy	£2,062,478	£2,193,182	£130,704	6.34%
High Street Primary Academy	£643,822	£668,911	£25,089	3.90%
Mount Street Primary School	£830,980	£850,667	£19,687	2.37%
Marine Academy Primary	£1,759,081	£1,810,701	£51,620	2.93%
Weston Mill Community Primary Academy	£1,385,549	£1,420,772	£35,223	2.54%
Ford Primary School	£907,544	£928,511	20,967	2.31%
Hyde Park Junior School	£1,418,225	£1,508,282	90,057	6.35%
Hyde Park Infants' School	£1,028,011	£1,093,301	65,290	6.35%
Knowle Primary School	£1,566,481	£1,598,322	£31,841	2.03%
Pilgrim Primary Academy	£1,826,954	£1,877,093	£50,140	2.74%
Stoke Damerel Primary School	£1,699,075	£1,745,782	£46,707	2.75%
Stuart Road Primary School	£817,982	£843,696	25,715	3.14%
Victoria Road Primary	£882,015	£910,712	£28,698	3.25%
Drake Primary Academy	£946,262	£966,213	£19,951	2.11%
Plaistow Hill Infant and Nursery School	£504,570	£517,035	£12,465	2.47%
Woodfield Primary School	£898,329	£922,887	£24,558	2.73%
Mount Wise Community Primary School	£1,277,408	£1,300,505	£23,097	1.81%
Manadon Vale Primary School	£1,663,573	£1,748,294	£84,720	5.09%
Widely Court Primary School	£2,343,896	£2,492,506	£148,609	6.34%
Marlborough Primary Academy	£704,042	£717,562	£13,520	1.92%
Morice Town Primary Academy	£954,732	£971,411	£16,679	1.75%
Dunstone Primary School	£818,794	£854,173	£35,379	4.32%
Hooe Primary Academy	£878,873	£919,532	£40,658	4.63%

School	2020/21 Post MFG Budget*	2021/22 Indicative Post MFG Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Increase/ (Decrease) (%)
	£109,875,087	£113,619,929	£3,744,842	
Oreston Community Academy	£1,633,888	£1,738,033	£104,145	6.37%
Boringdon Primary School	£1,649,812	£1,757,080	£107,268	6.50%
Plympton St Maurice Primary School	£796,557	£834,952	£38,396	4.82%
Pomphlett Primary School	£1,076,100	£1,152,223	£76,123	7.07%
Old Priory Junior Academy	£937,780	£997,202	£59,421	6.34%
Elburton Primary School	£1,681,128	£1,786,586	£105,458	6.27%
Widewell Primary Academy	£888,687	£920,474	£31,787	3.58%
Eggbuckland Vale Primary School	£1,536,774	£1,634,103	£97,329	6.33%
Glen Park Primary School	£1,648,114	£1,752,474	£104,360	6.33%
Thornbury Primary School	£1,190,574	£1,236,532	45,958	3.86%
Prince Rock Primary School	£1,870,138	£1,923,628	£53,490	2.86%
Leigham Primary School	£1,556,381	£1,645,783	£89,402	5.74%
St Edward's CofE Primary School	£799,223	£848,632	£49,409	6.18%
Plympton St Mary's CofE Infant School	£616,436	£640,147	£23,711	3.85%
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School	£1,273,001	£1,308,974	£35,973	2.83%
Keyham Barton Catholic Primary School	£793,858	£807,411	£13,553	1.71%
The Cathedral School of St Mary	£559,442	£579,591	£20,149	3.60%
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	£949,494	£966,585	£17,091	1.80%
St Peter's RC Primary School	£725,897	£746,217	£20,320	2.80%
Ernesettle Community School	£1,796,658	£1,855,260	£58,603	3.26%
Montpelier Primary School	£2,537,544	£2,698,414	160,870	6.34%
Oakwood Primary Academy	£1,387,337	£1,436,743	49,406	3.56%
Beechwood Primary Academy	£1,632,237	£1,689,533	£57,296	3.51%
Chaddlewood Primary School	£1,606,867	£1,708,307	£101,440	6.31%
Salisbury Road Primary School	£2,060,868	£2,136,190	£75,321	3.65%
Shakespeare Primary School	£1,820,277	£1,872,336	£52,059	2.86%
St Boniface's RC College	£2,128,883	£2,184,353	£55,471	2.61%
Scott Medical and Healthcare College	£1,473,397	£1,533,725	£60,328	4.09%
UTC Plymouth	£1,027,364	£1,044,507	£17,144	1.67%
Devonport High School for Girls	£3,362,127	£3,457,593	£95,465	2.84%
Plympton Academy	£4,798,787	£4,950,414	£151,627	3.16%
Hele's School	£5,613,070	£5,797,804	£184,733	3.29%
Plymstock School	£7,376,950	£7,594,626	£217,676	2.95%
Coombe Dean School	£4,645,846	£4,789,359	£143,512	3.09%
Eggbuckland Community College	£4,824,182	£4,962,339	138,157	2.86%
Tor Bridge High	£5,701,407	£5,930,589	229,181	4.02%
Lipson Co-operative Academy	£5,058,812	£5,233,548	£174,736	3.45%
Stoke Damerel Community College	£7,097,611	£7,301,414	203,803	2.87%
Notre Dame RC School	£3,592,455	£3,688,991	96,536	2.69%
Devonport High School for Boys	£4,738,951	£4,873,109	134,159	2.83%
All Saints Church of England Academy	£3,919,908	£3,839,813	(£80,095)	(2.04%)
Marine Academy Plymouth	£4,441,356	£4,570,255	128,899	2.90%
Millbay Academy	£5,048,908	£5,194,080	145,172	2.88%

Appendix B – 2021/22 Local Authority Proforma Tool

Local Authority Funding Reform Proforma

LA Name:	Plymouth
LA Number:	879

Primary minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS3 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary (KS4 only) minimum per pupil funding level	Secondary minimum per pupil funding level	Disapplication number where alternative MPPF values are used
£4,180	£5,215.00	£5,715.00	£5,415.00	

Pupil Led Factors

1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Reception uplift	No	Pupil Units		0.00		Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)		
	Description	Amount per pupil		Pupil Units		Sub Total					
	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,123.00		20,721.00		£64,711,683	£130,024,319	36.39%	5.00%		
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,404.00		8,817.00		£38,830,068		21.84%	6.00%		
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£4,963.00		5,336.00		£26,482,568		14.89%	6.00%		
2) Deprivation		Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Eligible proportion of primary NOR	Eligible proportion of secondary NOR	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)
	FSM		£460.00	£460.00	4,334.41	2,494.28	£3,141,197	£18,241,101	10.26%	20.00%	30.00%
	FSM6		£575.00	£840.00	5,645.84	4,445.67	£6,980,718			20.00%	20.00%
	IDACI Band F		£215.00	£310.00	1,737.24	1,152.77	£730,867			20.00%	20.00%
	IDACI Band E		£260.00	£415.00	2,860.07	1,737.24	£1,464,574			20.00%	20.00%
	IDACI Band D		£410.00	£580.00	1,926.69	1,152.71	£1,458,516			20.00%	20.00%
	IDACI Band C		£445.00	£630.00	1,982.55	1,232.96	£1,658,997			20.00%	20.00%
	IDACI Band B		£475.00	£680.00	1,651.92	938.89	£1,423,105			20.00%	20.00%
	IDACI Band A		£620.00	£865.00	1,265.71	691.77	£1,383,126	20.00%	20.00%		
3) Looked After Children (LAC)		LAC March 19			201.21		£0	£1,061,141	0.00%		
4) English as an Additional Language (EAL)		EAL 3 Primary	£550.00		996.27		£547,948		0.43%		
	EAL 3 Secondary		£1,485.00			149.91	£222,618				
5) Mobility		Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£900.00	£1,290.00	248.16	52.12	£290,575	0.16%			
6) Low prior attainment		Description	Weighting	Amount per pupil (primary or secondary respectively)	Percentage of eligible pupils	Eligible proportion of primary and secondary NOR respectively	Sub Total	Total	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Primary Notional SEN (%)	Secondary Notional SEN (%)
	Primary low prior attainment			£1,095.00	34.63%	7,175.17	£7,856,807	£12,798,151	7.20%	100.00%	
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 7)	64.53%			21.43%						
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 8)	63.59%			21.95%						
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 9)	58.05%	£1,660.00		21.65%	2,976.71	£4,941,345				
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 10)	48.02%			20.67%						
	Secondary low prior attainment (year 11)				19.24%					100.00%	

Other Factors

Factor	Lump Sum per Primary School (£)	Lump Sum per Secondary School (£)	Lump Sum per Middle School (£)	Lump Sum per All-through School (£)	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)
7) Lump Sum	£117,800.00	£117,800.00			£10,366,400	5.83%	
8) Sparsity factor					£0	0.00%	

Please provide alternative distance and pupil number thresholds for the sparsity factor below. Please leave blank if you want to use the default thresholds. Also specify whether you want to use a tapered lump sum or the NFF weighting for any of the phases.

Primary distance threshold (miles)	Primary pupil number average year group threshold	Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity primary lump sum?	Fixed
Secondary distance threshold (miles)	Secondary pupil number average year group threshold	Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity secondary lump sum?	Fixed
Middle schools distance threshold (miles)	Middle school pupil number average year group threshold	Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity middle school lump sum?	Fixed
All-through schools distance threshold (miles)	All-through pupil number average year group threshold	Fixed, tapered or NFF sparsity all-through lump sum?	Fixed

9) Fringe Payments	£0	0.00%	
10) Split Sites	£0	0.00%	
11) Rates	£1,584,679	0.89%	
12) PFI funding	£743,249	0.42%	
13) Exceptional circumstances (can only be used with prior agreement of ESFA)			
Circumstance	Total (£)	Proportion of total pre MFG funding (%)	Notional SEN (%)
Additional lump sum for schools amalgamated during FY20-21	£0	0.00%	0.00% 0.00%
Additional sparsity lump sum for small schools	£0	0.00%	
Exceptional Circumstance3	£0	0.00%	
Exceptional Circumstance4	£0	0.00%	
Exceptional Circumstance5	£0	0.00%	
Exceptional Circumstance6	£0	0.00%	
Exceptional Circumstance7	£0	0.00%	
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding minimum per pupil funding level and MFG Funding Total)	£174,819,040	98.31%	
14) Additional funding to meet minimum per pupil funding level	£3,001,933	1.69%	
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula (excluding MFG Funding Total)	£177,820,973	100.00%	
15) Minimum Funding Guarantee	2.00%	£23,797	
Where a value less than 0.5% or greater than 2% has been entered please provide the disapplication reference number authorising the value			
Apply capping and scaling factors? (gains may be capped above a specific ceiling and/or scaled)			
No			
Capping Factor (%)		Scaling Factor (%)	
Total deduction if capping and scaling factors are applied			
£0			
	Total (£)	Proportion of Total funding(%)	Notional SEN (%)
MFG Net Total Funding (MFG + deduction from capping and scaling)	£23,797	0.01%	
Total Funding for Schools Block Formula	£177,844,770		£23,715,450
High Needs threshold (only fill in if, exceptionally, a high needs threshold different from £6,000 has been approved)			
Additional funding from the high needs budget		£0.00	
Growth fund (if applicable)		£180,395.00	
Falling rolls fund (if applicable)		£0.00	
Other Adjustment to 20-21 Budget Shares			
£0			
Total Funding For Schools Block Formula (including growth and falling rolls funding)	£178,025,165		
% Distributed through Basic Entitlement	73.12%		
% Pupil Led Funding	91.17%		
Primary: Secondary Ratio	1 :	1.30	

Appendix C – ESG spend on Statutory Retained Duties (all schools)

Description	Estimated cost	Estimated cost
	2020/21	2021/22
	£	£
<u>Leadership function and support within Local Authority</u>		
Leadership and support (includes Planning for Education)	325,218	308,696
<u>Finance</u>		
Schools team excluding Early Years Finance Assistant - 70%	125,645	128,757
<u>Education Welfare Service</u>		
Inclusion, Attendance and Welfare (75%)	224,868	212,561
<u>Asset Management</u>		
Capital & Treasury management Team Support Services	32,960	33,949
Senior Data and Buildings Officer 75%	25,075	25,189
Strategic Investment and Capital	9,833	9,829
sub total	67,868	68,966
Overall total	743,599	718,979

Appendix D – ESG spend on general duties (maintained schools)

Description		Estimated cost 2020/21	Estimated cost 2021/22
		£	
Compliance over Health & Safety			
		4,999	4,999
Data Systems			
	Establish & maintain systems, including data storage - 1/3 of costs	107,842	106,039
Central Support Services			
	Outdoor education centres	21,744	22,396
Finance			
	Budgeting & Accounting function and monitoring - 30% Schools Team	53,848	56,233
	Head of Access and Planning - 25%	16,900	17,227
	Business Support - 25%	34,337	34,889
		105,085	108,348
Premature retirement/redundancy costs			
GPECD	Redundancy Payment	25,000	25,000
	Pension	1,415,708	1,415,708
		1,440,708	1,440,708
Education Welfare Service			
GPECJC	Inclusion, Attendance and Welfare (20%)	499	499
Asset Management			
4061/5732	Condition surveys/ feasibility Studies (5841/5701)	30,000	30,000
4061/XXXX	Strategic Investment and Capital Manager - 85%	55,689	55,697
	Senior Data and Buildings Officer - 25%	8,398	8,396
		64,086	64,093
National Curriculum Assessment			
4456/5928/moderation	Leadership Advisor plus teachers time	0	0
Overall total		1,744,964	1,747,084