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To: Members of the  
**SCHOOLS' FORUM**

David Dilling (Chairman)	Primary Academy Governor (Charles Darwin Academy Trust)
Rebecca Cottage	Special Head/Governor Maintained
Tracey Davies	Non-Schools Representative(14-19 Partnership)(Bromley Academy Trust)
Patrick Foley	Primary Maintained Head Teacher (Southborough Primary School)
Clare Grainger	Non-Schools' Representative (Joint Teacher Liaison Committee)(Connect Multi Academy Trust)
Chris Hollands	Primary Academy Head Teacher (Aquinas Trust)
Izabela Lecybyl	Non-School Representative (Catholic Church)
Neil Miller	PRU Head Teacher/Governor Academy (Bromley Trust Academy)
Andrew Rees	Secondary Maintained School Head Teacher (St Olaves Grammar School)
Brid Stenson	Non-School Representative (Early Years)
Ian Travis	Special Head Teacher/Governor Academy (Glebe School)
Gareth Walters	Primary Academy Governor (Compass Academy Trust)
Steve Whittle	Secondary Academy Head Teacher (Langley Park Trust)
David Wilcox	Secondary Academy Governor (Darrick Wood School)
1 x vacancy	Non-School Representative (Church of England)
1 x vacancy	Secondary Academy Governor
1 x vacancy	Primary Academy Governor

A virtual meeting of the Schools' Forum will be held on **THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2021 AT 4.30 PM**

\*Details of how to join the virtual meeting will be published in advance of the meeting\*

MARK BOWEN  
Director of Corporate Services

**A G E N D A**

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2020 (Pages 3 - 6)**

**4 2021/22 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (Pages 7 - 14)**

**5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

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## SCHOOLS' FORUM

Minutes of the meeting held at 4.30 pm on 5 November 2020

### Present:

David Dilling (Chairman)	Primary Academy Governor (Charles Darwin Academy Trust)
Tracey Davies	Non-Schools Representative(14-19 Partnership)(Bromley Academy Trust)
Patrick Foley	Primary Maintained Head Teacher (Southborough Primary School)
Chris Hollands	Primary Academy Head Teacher (Aquinas Trust)
Neil Miller	PRU Head Teacher/Governor Academy (Bromley Trust Academy)
Brid Stenson	Non-School Representative (Early Years)
Gareth Walters	Primary Academy Governor (Compass Academy Trust)
David Wilcox	Secondary Academy Governor (Darrick Wood School)

### Also Present:

David Bradshaw	Head of Finance (Education and Children's Services)
Julie Crew	Head of Schools' Finance Support
Jared Nehra	Director of Education
Philippa Gibbs	Democratic Services Officer

## 13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Andrew Rees, Ms Katie Scott, Ms Rebecca Cottage, and Ms Izabela Lecybyl. Following the meeting the Vice-Chairman, Mr David Bridger, extended apologies for absence due to illness and the Schools' Forum extended their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

## 14 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020, were approved and signed as a correct record.

### Matters Arising

In respect of the Scheme for Financing Schools, the Head of Finance (Education and Children's Services) reported that there was a difference between the Scheme for Financing Schools and the requirements placed on Academies and there was more complexity to the requirements for Academies. The Head of Finance reported that he was due to speak with the Auditors regarding this issue and would provide an update to the Schools' Forum via the Clerk.

**15 2021/22 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT  
Report CEF20032**

The report provided an outline of the estimated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2021/22 and an overview of how this would be spent.

The indicative Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for 2021/22 had been provided to all Local Authorities based on October 2019 pupil numbers (and would be uplifted in December to reflect the October 2020 census data). The DSG for 2021/22 was divided into four blocks – High Needs, Early Years, Schools and

2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant					
	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Schools Block	Schools Central Block	Total
Gross Grant Funding	£58,266,582	£23,055,439	£233,242,664	£1,871,573	£316,436,258
Recoupment adjustment	-£10,128,167				-£10,128,167
Net Grant Allocation	£48,138,415	£23,055,439	£233,242,664	£1,871,573	£306,308,091

Schools Central. The expected income detailed below:

Schools Central Block

It was noted that the Local Authority would be providing a contribution to address the overspend in the Schools Central Block.

Schools Block

The Forum considered issues around the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) and the financial risk posed to a number of schools from the low level being proposed. It was noted that the figures currently under consideration were provisional figures and there were limitations placed on the Local Authority. However, any additional information provided by the DfE would be reviewed. The Head of Finance stressed that there was a requirement to stay within the finding envelope and be as transparent as possible with the allocation of funding.

In response to comments concerning the cost pressures to schools arising from Covid-19, the Director of Education acknowledged the additional pressures schools had faced and confirmed that the Local Authority had been raising concerns with the DfE and would continue to do so.

The Chairman queried whether there were any options to consider around reducing the spend on areas such as the Falling Rolls Fund and the Growth Fund. In response, the Head of Finance confirmed that all areas of spend would be reviewed however, due to the demand for schools places it was currently unclear

whether any savings in the Growth Fund could be identified as GLA projections indicated that there were certain areas where additional classes would be needed and it was likely that pressures would remain for the next 3 years.

### High Needs Block

A Member noted that costs of out of borough placements continued to rise year-on-year, highlighting that a key recommendation arising from the SEND4Change review that had been undertaken was that these costs had to be reduced. In response the Director of Education recognised the considerable pressure arising from the exponential and sustained increase in the number of ECHPs, not just in Bromley but nationally. Last year there had been some welcome additional High Needs Funding from Government but it was not enough to meet the longer-term growth in demand. Further funding was expected although at this point it was indicative. There continued to be concerns around funding the High Needs Block and there was a need to ensure that it was sustainable going forward. One of the key requirements for reducing the spend on out of borough placements was additional local provision and the Local Authority had been working to increase the in-borough offer, including through the proposed establishment of a new special free school.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

## **16            CONSTITUTION OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM** **Report CEF20033**

The report provided an overview of the representation on the Schools Forum.

It was noted that arrangements needed to be put in place to ensure that Members of the Schools' Forum were appropriately trained and the Head of gave a commitment to arrange some training for new members of the Forum prior to the next meeting.

In relation to the issue of public attendance at meetings, it was agreed that the Constitution would explicitly reference that fact that these were meetings held in public and that the public were entitled to attend meetings in an observer capacity.

The Chairman suggested that in future years it may be helpful to include the pupil numbers that were used to calculate the relative number of representatives in the different categories.

The Forum discussed the issue of alternate members. The Chairman highlighted that there were several benefits from having alternate members such as widening circulation of papers and helping to generate a body of people who had further experience of the Schools Forum. It was agreed that it should be at the discretion of members of the Schools' Forum whether they wished to seek an alternate in the event that they were unable to attend meetings. The Local Authority would offer training to any alternate members who required training and once an alternate had been accepted, meeting agendas and papers would be provided to any alternate members who were proposed to the Clerk in advance of meetings.

In relation to the Officers who attended Schools' Forum meetings, the Head of Finance agreed to check whether the wording in Paragraph 1.14 of the constitution was taken directly from the Regulations.

**RESOLVED: That**

- 1. The report be noted;**
- 2. The list of Officer attendees at the beginning of the Constitution be revised to reflect the list set of in Paragraph 1.14 of the Constitution, and**
- 3. The Constitution of the Schools Forum be amended to explicitly reference that meetings are held in public and members of the public are entitled to observe meetings.**

**17            DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on 21 January 2021.

The Meeting ended at 5.30 pm

Chairman

# Agenda Item 4

Report No.  
CEF21001

London Borough of Bromley

## PART ONE - PUBLIC

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**Decision Maker:** **SCHOOLS' FORUM**

**Date:** **Thursday 21st January 2021**

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent                      Non-Executive                      Non-Key

**Title:** **2021/22 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT**

**Contact Officer:** Julie Crew, Head of Schools Finance Support  
Tel: 020 8313 4806    E-mail: Julie.Crew@Liberata.com

**Chief Officer:** Director of Children's Services

**Ward:** (All Wards);

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1. Reason for report

This report provides an outline of the final DSG allocation for 2021/22 and an overview of how this will be spent.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**The Schools Forum are asked to**

- i. **Review the final DSG income and forecast expenditure for 2021/22.**

a) **COMMENTARY**

1.1 The final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for 2021/22 has now been provided to all LAs to reflect the October 2020 census data.

The final DSG for 2021/22 is divided into four blocks – High Needs, Early Years, Schools and Schools Central. The expected income is detailed below

2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant					
	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Schools Block	Schools Central Block	Total
Gross Grant Funding	£58,728,780	£23,343,423	£237,832,719	£2,133,601	£322,038,523
Recoupment adjustment	-£9,954,000				-£9,954,000
Net Grant Allocation	£48,774,780	£23,343,423	£237,832,719	£2,133,601	£312,084,523

1.2 The LA has looked at each of these blocks and has forecast the related expenditure for 2021/22 based on information that is currently available at this time. Full details of the projected grant income and expenditure can be seen at Appendix 1 with detailed information regarding each block provided below.

1.3 Appendix 2 shows the allocation from the Department for Education

1.4 **Schools Central Block**

<b>Grant 2021/22</b>	£2,133,601
<b>Expenditure 2021/22</b>	£2,543,601
<b>Contribution from Council</b>	410,000
<b>Expected (Over)/ Underspend</b>	(£0)

The Central Block has increased by £214k. Although the, per pupil rate fell by 2.5% (the equivalent of a loss of £48k), £242k of additional grant was received due to the pay and pension specific grant allocation for centrally employed teachers now being integrated into the DSG. The remaining increase of around £20k is due to the increase in pupil numbers. There continues to be pressures in the Central Schools DSG due to funding shortfalls. Last year the Council used £360k of core LBB funding to underpin this expenditure. A further £50k is being proposed for 2021/22 bringing the total Council core funding to £410k. Officers will continue to work towards bringing this expenditure in line. The funding calculation also allows for £200k to be transferred from the Central Block to the High Needs Block to cover the costs of teachers pay and pension increases that were paid by grant and are now part of the Central Block calculation with the costs forming part of the High Needs Block.



## 1.5 Early Years Block

<b>Grant 2021/22</b>	£23,343,422
<b>Expenditure 2021/22</b>	£23,343,422
<b>Expected (Over)/ Underspend</b>	(0)

The Early Years Block income has increased slightly due to increases in the hourly rates payable. Last year's population figures are being used. Early Years DSG is adjusted in year to take account of take up during the year, so the figure will change as the year progresses. However, the projected expenditure has been adjusted to reflect the increase and the block remains balanced. Expenditure is calculated using the funding rates as previously agreed with the Schools Forum.

The funding calculation also allows for £500k to be transferred from the Early Years block to the High Needs Block to support Early Years children with SEND.

## 1.6 Schools Block

<b>Grant 2021/22 – Pupil Led</b>	£234,329,762
<b>Premises related funding (rates)</b>	£1,662,934
<b>Growth Funding</b>	£1,840,023
<b>Expenditure 2021/22</b>	£237,832,719
<b>Expected (Over)/ Underspend</b>	(0)

The Schools Block funding has been calculated using the October 2020 census pupil numbers and the per pupil units of funding which have been calculated for 2021/22. Based on the published figures the Primary unit of funding has increased from £4,282 to £4,595 which is an increase of around 7.3% and the Secondary unit of funding has increased from £5,408 to £5,863 which is an increase of around 8.4%. Funding has risen significantly year on year (by £19.4m between 2020/21 and 2021/22), however the majority of this (£11m) is due to the fact that teachers pay and pension grant has now been rolled into the DSG allocation.

The funding that the LA is allocated for the Schools Block is calculated by running the National Funding Formula (NFF) for every school to give a total figure, which is then divided by the number of pupils in each sector to give a per pupil figure. Additional funding is added for premises (i.e. rates) and growth funding. The final growth funding has been calculated at £1.84m which is a slight decrease on 2020/21 (£2.06m). This funding will continue to support growing schools in the borough.

## 1.7 The main changes to the NFF for 2021/22 are as follows-

- a) Funding previously received through the Teachers Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers Pension Employer Contribution (TPECG), including the supplementary fund, to mainstream schools for pupils from Reception to year 11 has now been added to the baseline.
- b) Unit values have typically been increased by 4%.

- c) Minimum per pupil funding levels are now compulsory and have been set at £4,180 for primary schools and £5,415 for secondary schools.
  - d) The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) level is required to be between 0.5% and 2%
- 1.8 There are a small number of schools that become eligible for minimum per pupil funding protection as follows:
- a) 17 Primary schools to receive around £1.89m collectively.
- 1.9 In the primary sector the schools that now fall into this category are the larger primary, infant and junior schools where the number of teaching staff may be highest, therefore pay and pension increase would put more pressure on schools budget. In the secondary sector there are no schools that are below the threshold
- 1.10 The MFG protection across all schools has decreased to around £4m.
- 1.11 The MFG level that has been used by Bromley is 2% which sits at the top of the government's parameters. This is higher than was first estimated due mainly to the Teachers Pay Grant and Teachers Pension Employers Grant brought into the DSG, having previously been a separate grant that sat outside of the DSG.

1.12 **High Needs Block**

<b>Grant 2021/22</b>	<b>£58,728,780</b>
<b>Recoupmnt</b>	<b>-£9,954,000</b>
<b>LA Expenditure 2021/22</b>	<b>£48,774,780</b>
<b>Expected (Over)/ Underspend</b>	<b>(£0)</b>

- 1.13 The High Needs Block is seeing pressures coming through the system. Nationally the Government were seeing some authorities building up high levels of deficit reserves. This particular funding issue was acknowledged, and funding was committed for 2021/22. The DSG allocation resulted in an increase in high needs block funding of £5.7m for Bromley. This was due to the increases in per pupil funding and the increase in pupils themselves. £939k of the increase relates to pay and pension increases that were paid through specific grants and are now integrated into the overall High Needs block calculation.
- 1.14 Whilst the funding is welcomed it is predicted that levels of growth will outstrip the current funding levels over the next four years. Moreover, funding for the High Needs Block has not been confirmed beyond 2021/22 and therefore it has been assumed that Bromley will continue to receive similar increases in subsequent years.
- 1.15 To mitigate against the predicted growth, mitigations have also been assumed as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. These are predicated on slowing the rate of increase in EHCPs and to incrementally placing more children in local schools. This carries significant risks because provision for children is determined by their presenting needs according to the legal tests set out within the SEND Code of Practice. With sustained exponential increases in demand for EHCPs and increasing numbers of cases being overturned by SEND Tribunals, this will remain a challenge across the MTFS period.
- 1.16 There continues to be significant pressures on the High Needs Block. The expenditure is based on the pattern of new EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans) seen over recent years and on the average

cost of a placement. The demand for placements of children and young people with SEN continues to increase. Increased numbers of children and young people have been placed at mainstream schools, special schools and resourced provisions. Nevertheless, the sustained increase in demand results in the continued reliance on independent settings, which are generally more expensive than in borough placements.

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2021/22 DSG

High Needs Block

	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Income</b>		
Baseline	48,165,483	52,568,913
HN Pupil numbers		
Baseline £ Per Pupil	3,932,961	5,040,594
import/export	678,000	180,000
Hospital & AP TPG/TPEG	763,560	939,273
<b>High Needs Block Restated</b>	<b>53,540,004</b>	<b>58,728,780</b>
Mainstream Academy Units @6k places		-1,926,000
Mainstream Academy Units @10k places		-190,000
Mainstream Academy Post 16 - Schools places		-282,000
Special Academy Places		-2,900,000
Alternative Provision Recoupment		-1,350,000
Academy Post-16 Units		-180,000
Post 16 Transfer		-2,526,000
Special Academy Post 16		-600,000
	-8,878,000	-9,954,000
<b>DSG Grant Amount</b>	<b>44,662,004</b>	<b>48,774,780</b>

Expenditure

	2020/21	2021/22
<b>Delegated budgets</b>		
Special Schools - Pre 16 places	3,730,833	3,900,000
top up	5,332,508	5,729,442
Glebe top up	1,596,770	1,617,474
BTA Top Up	1,622,790	1,622,790
BBA top up	1,949,518	1,949,518
Hospital	0	180,000
Units - Maintained Places	120,000	120,000
- LA Funded Academy Places (Vacant)	40,000	40,000
- LA Funded Academy Places	70,833	100,000
- Maintained Top Up	84,855	84,855
- Academy Top Up	1,636,986	1,642,041
In year changes to recoupment	535,500	0
Teacher pay and pension grant transfer to DSG	0	939,273
<b>LA Centrally Managed</b>		
Darrick Wood HIU	415,010	1,145,680
Darrick wood Deaf centre	453,870	1,063,090
AP Recoupment	-95,000	-95,950
Progression Courses	375,680	899,450
Home and Alternative Provision	900,800	1,386,890
SEN Support in Mainstream	177,630	282,690
SEN funding in Schools	3,537,760	4,052,050
Social Communication Difficulties Team	120,760	0
Sensory Support	1,064,420	0
Outreach and Inclusion	869,450	902,090
Specialist Support and Disability	229,950	232,250
Complex Needs Team	536,110	641,890
Phoenix Pre School Service	869,240	736,460
SEN Transport	230,000	230,000
Special Central	124,160	964,000
Other Statemented	533,440	538,730
SEN Out of Borough Fees	12,970,361	14,002,168
SEN in Further Education Colleges	4,017,790	4,557,950
Special Capital	9,980	9,950
Funded by EY Block	-500,000	-500,000
Funded by CSS Block	0	-200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,562,004</b>	<b>48,774,781</b>
Variance	1,100,000	-0

Early Year Block

	2020/21	2021/22
EY Pupil numbers		5,701
Baseline £ Per Pupil		5.05
hours (15 x 38)		570
3 & 4 Years Old Funding	16,356,716	16,410,646
EY Pupil numbers		1,787
Baseline £ Per Pupil		5.05
hours (15 x 38)		570
3 & 4 Years Old Additional 15 Hrs	4,458,156	5,143,477
EY Pupil numbers		484
Baseline £ Per Pupil		5.82
hours (15 x 38)		570
2 Year Old Funding	1,506,598	1,604,395
EY Pupil Premium	149,714	116,025
EY Disability Access Fund	59,040	68,880
	<b>22,530,224</b>	<b>23,343,422</b>

Universal	14,906,717	15,487,132
Additional 3 & 4 Year Old Hours	4,254,247	4,354,580
2 Year Old Cost	1,964,028	2,109,580
EY Pupil Premium	149,712	116,030
<b>Central Costs</b>		
EY Admin Team	189,370	195,440
SEN Support in Pre Schools	507,110	511,780
Additional HN Expenditure	500,000	500,000
EY Disability Access Fund	59,040	68,880

Schools Block

	2020/21	2021/22
Primary Pupil Numbers		27,500
Baseline £ Per Pupil		4,595
Total Primary Funding	117,176,608	126,362,402
Secondary pupil numbers		18,414
Baseline £ Per Pupil		5,863
Growth, Premises and mobility	97,610,610	107,967,360
	1,552,488	1,662,934
	<b>216,339,686</b>	<b>235,992,696</b>
Growth funding	2,061,063	1,840,023
	<b>218,400,749</b>	<b>237,832,719</b>

Academy Recoupment	208,006,480	225,968,630
Primary SBS	5,458,375	6,020,656
Secondary SBS	3,236,233	3,521,119
Growth	1,526,662	2,151,524
Falling rolls	173,000	170,790

Central Schools Services Block

	2020/21	2021/22
Pupil Numbers	45,916	45,914
Baseline £ Per Pupil	42.27	46.47
Central Schools Services Funding	1,919,714	2,133,601
Access and Admissions	550,470	491,490
Licences	245,290	251,960
Capital	62,510	61,990
Schools Forum	1,000	1,000
Pupil Support Advisory Team	198,710	214,730
Support to Schools	46,180	46,640
Business Support	120,250	162,460
Workforce Development	25,990	26,360
Schools standard	180,250	193,110
Access to Education Management	0	85,530
<b>Formerly ESG Funding</b>		
Education Welfare Service	420,530	440,341
Asset Management - Education	86,570	96,920
Statutory / Regulatory Duties - Education	341,964	271,070
Transfer to High Needs re centrally employed teachers	0	200,000
Contribution from Council	-360,000	-410,000
	<b>1,919,714</b>	<b>2,133,601</b>
Variance	0	-0

Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2021 to 2022 allocations local authority summary	2021 to 2022 DSG allocations, before recoupment and deductions for direct funding of high needs places by Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)					2021 to 2022 DSG allocations, after deductions for direct funding of high needs places by ESFA				
	Schools block (£s)	Central school services block (£s)	High needs block (£s)	Early years block (£s)	Total DSG allocation (£s)	Schools block (£s)	Central school services block allocation (£s)	High needs block allocation (£s)	Early years block (£s)	Total DSG allocation (£s)
	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]	[F]	[G]	[H]	[I]	[J]
	= [A] + [B] + [C] + [D]					= [F] + [G] + [H] + [I]				
<b>305 Bromley</b>	237,832,719	2,133,601	58,728,780	23,343,423	322,038,523	237,832,719	2,133,601	48,774,780	23,343,423	312,084,523