Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) Agenda 16 January 2019

2.00pm Kidderminster Room County Hall Worcester WR5 2NP

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Contents

Page | 1 www.worcestershire.gov.uk



AGENDA

Agenda Item 1 Apologies Agenda Item 2 Declaration of Interests Agenda Item 3 Declaration of potential Conflict of Interests with Items on the Agenda Agenda Item 3 Declaration of potential Conflict of Interests with Items on the Agenda Agenda Item 4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 21st November 2018 Agenda Item 5 Any Other Business Agenda Item 6 Matters Arising - Cabinet Decisions 13th December 2018 for 2019-20 Draft Budget Proposals Agenda Item 7 Provisional School Funding Settlement 2019-20 Agenda Item 8 The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018 and DSG Conditions of Grant 2019-20 Agenda Item 9 Schools Block Allocations 2019-20 Authority Proforma Tool (APT) Agenda Item 10 F40 Group Issues a) Correspondence with the Chancellor of the Exchequer b) Meeting with the DfE 5 December 2018

Agenda Item 11 Academies Update

Date of Next Programmed WSF Meeting Thursday 14 March 2019 at 2pm, Kidderminster Room, County Hall





MEETING OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)

Wednesday 16th January 2019 At 2.00pm in the Kidderminster Room, County Hall, Worcester

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Declaration of Interests
- Declaration of Potential Conflict of Interests With Items on the Agenda
- 4. Minutes of the Last Meeting 21st November 2018 (attached)
- 5. Any Other Business
- Matters Arising
 Cabinet Decisions 13th December 2018
 for 2019-20 Draft Budget Proposals
 (Paragraphs 9.8 to 9.13)
 (verbal update)

http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131& MId=2163&Ver=4

Sue Alexander Head of Financial Management

Adults, Children, Families and Communities 7.

- Provisional School Funding Settlement 2019-20 (attached)
- The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018 and DSG Conditions of Grant 2019-20 (attached)

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9.	Schools Block Allocations 2 Authority Proforma Tool (A		(attached and) to follow)
10.	F40 Group Issues a) Correspondence with Cl Exchequer b) Meeting with DfE 5 th Dec		(attached) (attached)
11.	Academies Update		(attached)
Date	of Next Meeting:	Thursday 14 th Marcl Kidderminster Roon	

Please pass apologies to Andy McHale who can be contacted on Tel 01905 766285 or e-mail <u>amchale@worcestershire.gov.uk</u>



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF)

Wednesday 21st November 2018 Redditch Room, County Hall, Worcester

The meeting started at 2.05 pm

IN ATTENDANCE:

WSF Members

Malcolm Richards (Chair) Bryn Thomas (Vice Chair) Paul Essenhigh Julie Wills Adrian Ward	-	Governor, Bromsgrove HT Wolverley CE Secondary School Executive HT Catshill Middle, Catshill First and Nursery Schools (from 2.15pm) HT Upton-upon-Severn CE Primary School HT Trinity High School
Chris King Jeff Robinson Fran Oborski (Designated Substitute for David McIntosh)	-	CEO Severn Academies Educational Trust Governor, Malvern Hills Governor, Wyre Forest
John Bateman	-	Governor, Aspire Alternative Provision (AP) Free School
Stephen Baker Tricia Wellings	-	Union Representative PVI Sector
WSF Member Designate		
Nathan Jones	-	HT Meadow Green Primary
Local Authority (LA) Officers		
Sue Alexander	-	Head of Financial Management Adults, Children, Families and Communities
Nick Wilson	-	Interim Assistant Director Education and Skills Children, Families and Communities
Andy McHale	-	Service Manager Funding and Policy Children, Families and Communities
Caroline Brand	-	Finance Manager Children, Families and Communities
Penny Richardson	-	Interim Group Manager SEND Children, Families and Communities (For Agenda Item 7 until 3.05pm)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Welcome

(a) The Chair welcomed Nathan Jones HT Meadow Green Primary to the WSF as a member designate in the nursery/first/primary maintained schools category replacing Julie Wills HT Upton-upon-Severn CE Primary School. The Chair thanked Julie for her contributions to WSF business.

(b) The Chair welcomed Fran Oborski Governor Wyre Forest to the meeting as a designated substitute for David McIntosh.

(b) The Chair welcomed Penny Richardson to the WSF meeting for Agenda Item 7.

1.2 Apologies

Maria Dearea		UT Evenham Nurgary School
Marie Pearse	-	HT Evesham Nursery School
Vivienne Cranton	-	HT Hollymount Primary School (Absent)
Deb Rattley	-	HT Chadsgrove Special School
David McIntosh	-	Governor, Wyre Forest
Lorraine Petersen	-	Governor, Bromsgrove
Greg McClarey	-	Archdiocese of Birmingham
Tim Reid	-	Church of England Board of Education
Denise Phelps	-	PVI Sector
Edward Senior	-	16-19 Providers
Councillor Marcus Hart	-	Cabinet Member with Responsibility for
		Education and Skills

2. HIGH NEEDS RECOVERY PLAN (AGENDA ITEM 7)

2.1 The Chair proposed that this item be discussed first.

2.2 Nick introduced the report and confirmed the current in year budget pressure being reported to WCC Cabinet on 13th December 2018 was an overspend of £7.2m against a £39m net HN DSG. It was anticipated this was likely to increase during the remainder of the year. The WSF were advised the paper sets this out together, the current pattern of placements and financial options for consideration. The WSF noted the requirement to re-balance the system.

2.3 Sue advised on the national position in some other LAs and that the DfE had launched a consultation on the reporting of DSG deficits and requirements on LAs to have recovery plans. This would be discussed later under **Agenda Item 9d**).

2.4 Penny advised on the need to manage the statutory SEND system within the financial quantum and challenge the perceptions of schools in this process – there is an escalation of cases in Reception and Year 9 in particular to special schools. The WSF noted LA working with SENCOs and school networks and that a review of admissions processes linked to the national SEND reforms were taking place. Penny further advised as part of the SEND inspection recovery plan one of the work streams on graduated response was to build capacity in mainstream schools and early years settings and a restructure of the SEND service was taking place.

2.5 Nick requested the WSF to have a more focussed group to look at the issues.

2.6 Members of the WSF commented as follows: -

(a) Early Years (EY)

- Settings are not being listened by parents of children with SEND who are being advised by external agencies to seek special school places, which is not the recommendation of the PVI.
- For the majority of these children mainstream with support would be more appropriate.
- More SEND resource into EY would support the process of support in the PVI and integration into mainstream.

(b) Primary

- Pupils with BESD are difficult to support and schools are finding it difficult what to advise secondary colleagues at age transfer.
- There is a huge gap for this extremely vulnerable group that impacts whole school.
- High needs are now disproportionate and the current definition of 'Notional SEN' needs to be reviewed.

(c) Secondary

- Concern that some schools are not inclusive and advise parents that provision is required elsewhere there is evidence of a 'selective' culture and encouraging attending other schools.
- In admission year groups there is a significant increase in pupils with EHCPs and HTs are having to argue for more financial support.
- Common for some schools to support 'isolation' to avoid exclusions, which is potentially better than being out of school .
- There is an impact of the rigid curriculum and changes to national policy for school organisation over the last 10 years.
- MATs have some good relationships and collaborative working between phases in respect of SEND so there are some practice lessons to be shared.

(d) SEN Bases

- There are only a small number of SEND bases in mainstream schools that could support vulnerable pupils.
- The LA should consult with schools on proposals for more of this type of provision.

(e) Elective Home Education (EHE)

- Is there are correlation of SEND with the rise in EHE?
- There is a WCC Scrutiny Panel programmed to look at this critical area.

<u>(e) General</u>

- Potential that the issue could easily be 'kicked down the road'.
- There needs to be a range of solutions and engage a range of providers; otherwise it will cost a lot more in the future.
- There is a case for more national resource for all LAs.
- The current DSG reserve will be more than fully utilised in this year but transferring 0.5% from the Schools Block just adds to the cost pressures in mainstream schools.

- Is the low funding position for WCC impacting here and do other LAs have more reserves to support the issue?
- A recovery plan is the correct thing to do but it needs to be wide ranging.

2.7 In response Penny advised there is evidence that pupils are being put forward to special schools too early and need to manage phase transfers better due to a lack of confidence. Also the County is spending far too much in out County provision, which needs to be rebalanced. On EHE Nick advised a small number of these pupils are in receipt of EHCPs. Nick in response to a question confirmed that isolation units are used, they should be appropriately managed and monitored. Head teachers on the panel supported this statement. On other LA funding there is no specific correlation on low funded LAs and HN pressures; all LAs are under pressure in their HN DSG.

2.8 Sue advised the flexibility of using DSG reserves would soon not be available and some of the current reserve is earmarked for other areas. Sue further advised the recovery plan task is enormous to get the budget back on track and Cabinet reports are now including details on this critical issue.

2.9 The Chair summarised and requested consideration of the small task and finish group. This was supported and a member of the WSF requested that terms of reference be compiled. The Chair requested volunteers to indicate to the Clerk if they were willing to be part of the group.

RESOLVED –

The WSF approved to set up a small task and finish group of the WSF to discuss and prepare a more detailed recovery plan to begin to be implemented from 2019/20.

2.10 The Chair thanked Penny Richardson for attending the WSF meeting.

Penny Richardson left the meeting at 3.05pm.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

4. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS WITH ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

4.1 The Vice Chair declared a potential conflict of interest under **Agenda Item 10** Pupil Growth Fund 2019-20 – DfE Illustrations.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (11th September 2018)

Agreed.

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Under 1 in response to a member of the WSF asking about CMR attendance at the WSF, the Clerk advised this meeting was a replacement to the programmed October 2018 meeting so Councillor Hart was already committed for today.

6.2 Under 9.4 the WSF noted the need to consider the legal position on charging for academy conversions.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. SCHOOL STAFFING COST ISSUES

8.1 Teachers' Pay Award September 2018

(a) The WSF noted the current position on the grant and the per pupil formula designed by the DfE. The WSF further noted that the grant was never intended to cover the full actual cost by school and queried if the LA knew how much the shortfall was in the grant. A member of the WSF commented that no such support was available for staff cost pressures in the early year's sector.

(b) Andy advised given it was based on a national rate, the difference in school staffing structures and there is no information on academies it was not possible to calculate the cost of the pay award to the grant allocated. The Vice Chair commented the LA pay policy for the maximum uplift on all the points of the 6 point pay scale would impact financially.

(c) The WSF were advised in terms of grant payment for mainstream schools maintained schools would be allocated their prescribed amounts shortly and academies will receive the grant direct from the ESFA.

(d) Andy confirmed for HN providers both maintained and academies the grant had been allocated to the LA based upon a national rate per place. LAs were required to consult on its distribution and it was proposed to use the DfE methodology. This approach was agreed by the WSF and the clerk was requested to discuss this approach with the special school WSF representative.

8.2 Teachers' Pension scheme (TPS) Employer Contributions

(a) The WSF noted the potential increase and future cost pressures arising from an unfunded pension scheme.

(b) A member of the WSF advised of potential further future cost rises for national insurance and the local government pension scheme.

9. SCHOOL FUNDING ISSUES

<u>9.1 Applications to the DfE to Disapply the School and Early Years Funding Regulations</u> for 2019-20

(a) Andy advised for the Type 1 disapplication to adjust the MFG for the school qualifying for a new formula factor in 2019-20, the DfE had indicated their intention to approve.

(b) The WSF were requested to consider the need or otherwise for any Type 2 disapplication in respect of a transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Block to support High Needs pressures as discussed earlier in the meeting. The WSF considered the

consultation requirements, the commitment to introducing the NFF for year 2 and cost pressures on mainstream schools and did not approve a transfer. It was recognised this would have to be considered within the High Needs Recovery Plan going forward.

RESOLVED -

On a show of hands the WSF DID NOT APPROVE (For 0 votes; Against 10 votes; Abstentions 1 vote) the transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Block to support High Needs cost pressures in 2019-20.

9.2 WSF Required Decisions for 2019-20

(a) Andy advised the local funding consultation in the Autumn Term 2017 for 2018-19 and 2019-20 had for the **Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF)** supported Option 2 the introduction of the DfE NFF parameters as the WCC local formula as far is practicable and affordable. This was approved by WCC Cabinet in December 2017 so on this basis no further consideration was required by the WSF until the January 2019 WSF meeting when the School Funding settlement 2019-20 would have been made.

(b) Andy further advised on **De-delegated and Centrally Retained Services** last year's consultation supported ccontinuing with the existing arrangements in 2017-18 into 2018-19 and 2019-20. The WSF noted although decisions on these had been made by both the WCC Cabinet and the WSF for 2018-19 and 2019-20 the DfE require schools forums to re-confirm these for 2019-20 as the WSF are the decision makers for these aspects.

(c) Andy confirmed that the voting arrangements were as follows: -

- Maintained Mainstream School Members Only Delegation and de-delegation for central services for their phase only.
- All School Members (Nursery, First, Primary, Secondary, High, Special and PRU's) Other centrally retained services.
- Non Schools Members Other centrally retained services.

(d) Delegation and De-delegation of Centrally Retained DSG Services for Maintained Mainstream Schools

- The WSF considered its statutory responsibilities in making decisions on the delegation or de-delegation of services currently centrally retained in the DSG for maintained mainstream schools.
- In line with the Schools Forum (England) Regulations 2012, the WSF maintained school members by phase considered these areas.
- On a show of hands the WSF maintained school members by phase unanimously **RESOLVED TO APPROVE** (Primary including Middle Deemed Primary: For 3 votes; Against 0 votes; Abstentions 0 votes; Secondary including Middle Deemed Secondary: For 2 votes; Against 0 votes; Abstentions 0 votes): -
 - The continued initial delegation and transfer of the following centrally retained services for 2019-20 as in 2017-18 and 2018-19 as follows: -

FORMULA FACTOR	SERVICE	
Basic Per Pupil	School Specific Contingencies (not early years)	
	Support for Schools in Financial Difficulties	
	14-16 Practical Learning Options	
	Schools Insurance	
	Staff Costs Supply Cover	

Licences and Subscriptions	
Deprivation	FSM Eligibility
EAL	Support for Minority Ethnic Pupils
Low Cost High Incidence SEN Prior Attainment	Support for Underachieving Groups Behaviour Support Services

> The delegation or de-delegation of these areas by reducing the formula amounts for maintained mainstream schools as follows: -

Phase/Service	Primary Delegation	Primary De- delegation	Secondary Delegation	Secondary De- delegation
School Specific Contingency (SSC)	No	Yes	No	Yes
Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty	Yes	No	Yes	No
14-16 Practical Learning Options	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Behaviour Support Services	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
Schools Insurance	Yes	No	Yes	No
Licenses and Subscriptions (DfE Prescribed)	No	Yes	No	Yes
Support for Minority Ethnic Pupils or Underachieving Groups – EAL	No	Yes	No	Yes
Support for Minority Ethnic Pupils or Underachieving Groups – Travellers Children	No	Yes	No	Yes
Free School Meal Eligibility	No	Yes	No	Yes
Staff Costs Supply Cover – Civic Duties	No	Yes	No	Yes
Staff Costs Supply Cover – Trade Union Duties	No	Yes	No	Yes
Staff Costs Supply Cover – HR Related Duties	No	Yes	No	Yes
School Improvement	N/A	No	N/A	No
Statutory Duties for Maintained Schools Previously Funded by the General Duties ESG	N/A	No	N/A	No

For those services subject to de-delegation by the formula factors detailed above by reducing the formula amounts in 2019-20 for maintained mainstream schools only on the basis detailed above. (e) Centrally Retained DSG Services

- The WSF also considered its statutory responsibilities in making decisions on other centrally retained DSG services.
- On a show of hands the WSF members unanimously RESOLVED TO (For 11 votes; Against 0 votes; Abstention 0 votes) <u>approve</u> the continued central retention in 2019-20 of the centrally retained services as detailed, limited to the 2017-18 budget level or as prescribed by the DfE (indicative budgets are shown either limited to previous year levels or estimated funding subject to final clarification and change) for: -
 - Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth to meet basic need and to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement i.e. pupil growth fund – DfE formal notification so amount to be confirmed.
 - Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and Music Publishers Association (MPA) licences (subject to DfE prescription) – DfE formal notification so amount to be confirmed.
 - Contributions to Combined Services the Early Intervention Family Support (EIFS) service budget – £1.50m actual.
 - > Co-ordinated admissions scheme £0.70m actual.
 - Servicing of the Schools Forum £0.06m actual.
 - Services previously funded by the retained rate of the ESG £1.16m actual.
 - Central early years block provision at the level already approved in the WCC Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) constrained by the DfE limit in the Schools and Early Years Funding Regulations.

(f) The WSF agreed decisions were **not** required for other allowable centrally retained DSG areas as detailed in the report due to no historic provision, previous commitments now time expired or no current impact as follows: -

- Back pay for equal pay claims.
- > Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies.
- > Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils.
- SEN transport where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget.
- > Prudential borrowing costs.
- Any deficit from the previous funding period that is being brought forward and is to be funded from the new financial year's schools budget.
- Any brought forward deficit on de-delegated services, which is to be met by the overall schools budget.
- > Capital expenditure funded from revenue.
- Existing termination of employment costs.
- Funding for good or outstanding schools with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years.

(g) The WSF noted there would need to be further consideration in future years on the impact of any DSG deficit as part of HN budget pressures.

9.3 F40 Issues

(a) The WSF noted the latest F40 Group papers and the recent letter from the new F40 Chair to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

(b) Members of the WSF raised concerns that no Worcestershire MPs had attended the recent MPs briefing and that HT and school concerns were not being considered. The Chair suggested sending a communication from the WSF on the issue.

<u>9.4 DfE Consultation on the Implementation of New Arrangements for reporting Deficits</u> of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

(a) Sue advised on the potential new requirements from the DfE on LAs to report on DSG deficits. From the consultation it is obvious the DfE are concerned on the effect of HN budget pressures in particular and will be requiring LAs with a 1% or more deficit as at 31st March 2019 to report on their proposed recovery plan by 30th June 2019. For WCC this would be a deficit of about £4m.

(b) Sue further advised she would be drafting a response to the consultation for the Chief Financial Officer of the LA and requested any comments for inclusion to be sent to her.

10. PUPIL GROWTH FUND 2019-20 - DfE ILLUSTRATIONS

10.1 Andy advised on the new proposed DfE formulaic approach to support in year pupil growth in LAs.

10.2 Andy reminded the WSF of its existing approved criteria and that this fund could only be used to support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need, the infant class size regulation and the costs of new schools. It cannot be used for general growth due to popularity, which is managed through lagged funding.

10.3 The WSF noted the potential for an increased allocation in this area and that it is likely to be all required to support the current and future basic need cost pressures in Worcestershire.

10.4 In response to a query regarding s106 contributions and the LA not allocating these promptly, Nick advised a report on this and sufficiency was going to WCC Cabinet in December 2018.

11. SECTION 251 BUDGET BENCHMARKING DATA 2018/19

11.1 The WSF noted the latest DfE benchmarking data.

12. ACADEMIES UPDATE

12.1 The WSF noted the latest academies position as at 1st November 2018.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm

The date of the next WSF meeting is: -

Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 2pm Kidderminster Room County Hall Worcester

AGENDA ITEM 7 WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM <u>16th JANUARY 2019</u>

REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF) PROVISIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING SETTLEMENT 2019-20

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To advise the WSF on the provisional School Funding Settlement for 2019-20.

2. PROVISIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING SETTLEMENT 2018-19

2.1 On 17th December 2018 the Minister of State for School Standards announced details of the provisional School Funding Settlement 2019-20 for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). Summary details can be found on the following link: -

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2019-to-2020

3. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) 2019-20

3.1 The DSG settlement includes: -

- The DSG schools block continues to be allocated on the basis of the new National Funding Formula (NFF) schools block primary and secondary units of funding 2019-20 announced in July 2018.
- The Central Services Schools (CSS) Block is allocated on the DfE national model.
- The High Needs (HN) Block is also allocated on the basis of the new National Funding Formula (NFF) announced in September 2017. In addition the HN DSG has been increased by an additional £250m of one-off funding over 2018-19 and 2019-20 to support HN cost pressures.
- Continuation of the new national Early Years (EY) DSG arrangements introduced in 2017-18.

3.2 The 2019-20 provisional allocation is detailed in **Table 1** under the notional DSG blocks. **This is prior to the recoupment deduction for Academies and non-LA maintained specialist providers**. It also compares the provisional allocations to the 2018-19 DSG latest settlement.

DSG Allocations	2018-19 Latest December 2018 £'m	2019-20 Provisional December 2018 £'m	Variance £'m	Notes
Schools Block	315.247	323.314	+8.067	1A
Central School				
Services Block	3.766	3.793	+0.027	1B
High Needs Block	49.852	51.965	+2.113	1C
Early Years Block	32.424	32.433	+0.009	1D
Total DSG Gross	401.289	411.505	+10.216	

Table 1: Provisional DSG Gross Settlement 2019-20

<u>Notes</u>

1A. 2019-20 set by DfE as part of NFF policy September 2017 for Year 2 based upon the October 2018 pupil census against the Primary and Secondary Units of Funding (PUF) and (SUF) confirmed in July 2018. It also includes historic premises related factors allocation 2018-19 £7.488m and Pupil Growth Fund £1.736m now on a formulaic basis.

1B. 2019-20 NFF formulaic allocation for centrally retained statutory services £2.293m plus historic commitments £1.500m based on 2017-18.

1C. 2019-20 set by DfE as part of NFF policy September 2017. In 2018-19 and 2019-20 WCC allocated £1.232m of one-off funding in each year as part of the national £250m additional DSG.

1D. 2019-20 provisional based upon Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision censuses data for 2, 3 & 4 year olds from January 2018. The final allocations will be updated based on January 2018 and January 2019 census data.

3.3 An analysis of the difference between the NFF 2019-20 for the Schools, CSSB and High Needs Blocks between the initial allocations in July 2018 and the revised allocations in December 2018 is detailed in **Appendix A**. Also, a comparison between the DSG for 2018-19 and 2019-20 is detailed in **Appendix B**.

3.4 The main aspects of each block are as follows: -

3.4.1 Schools Block

- There is an overall increase in pupil numbers between October 2017 and October 2018, which shows an increase in both the primary (+6.5) and secondary (+662). This is detailed in **Table 2**.
- As the majority are in the secondary sector this draws in more DSG but the unit of resource rates in the LSFF are higher in this sector.
- The budgetary impact for each school will depend on: -
 - How their individual pupil numbers and other data varies between October 2017 and October 2018.
 - > The impact across all schools and the MFG and capping.
 - The amount of Schools Block Funding to be allocated in the Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) – this is discussed further under Agenda Item 9.

Table 2: Pupil Number Variation 2018-19 and 2019-20

Phase	2018-19 October 2017 Census	%	2019-20 October 2018 Census	%	Note
Primary	44006	60.9	44012.5	60.4	2A
Secondary	28211	39.1	28873	39.6	2A
Total	72217	100.0	72885.5	100.0	

<u>Note</u>

2A. From 2019-20 as in 2018-19, there is no longer a reduction adjustment made for pupils in Specialist Provision in mainstream schools. For each LA, the DfE transferred in

2018-19 a relevant amount to the Schools Block DSG from the High Needs Block DSG to fund the additional pupil numbers.

3.4.2 Early Years Block

• This reflects the new national EY DSG announced in December 2016 including the enhanced hourly rates for 2, 3 & 4 year olds and an estimate of the take up by working parents for the additional 15 hours part year from September 2018. This will be updated during the year.

3.4.3 High Needs Block

• The allocation of £51.961m is made up as follows as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: High Needs Allocation

DETAIL	£'m	Notes
2018-19 Original NFF	48.620	3A
+ Additional HN One-Off DSG 2018-19	1.232	3B
= 2018-19 Final	49.852	
2018-19 Original NFF	48.620	
+ Effect of NFF Year 2	2.113	3C
+ Additional HN One-Off DSG 2018-19	1.232	
2019-20 Provisional	51.965	

<u>Notes</u>

- 3A. Baseline from 2018-19.
- **3B.** DfE announcement 17th December 2018.
- **3C.** Set by DfE as part of NFF policy September 2017.
 - The estimated place deduction from the HN block for SEN units in academies, maintained post 16 and NMSS providers is detailed in **Table 4**. This results in estimated HN DSG (net) of £44.005m.

Table 4: Estimated HN Place Deductions

DETAIL	2018-19 Final £'m	2019-20 Provisional £'m	Variance £'m	Notes
SEN Units Academies	(0.68)	(0.71)	(0.03)	
Special Academies Pre and Post 16	(4.88)	(4.94)	(0.06)	
Alternative Provision	(0.83)	(0.79)	0.04	4A
Special Maintained Post 16	(0.81)	(0.27)	0.54	4B
FE Providers	(1.22)	(1.25)	(0.03)	
TOTAL	(8.42)	(7.96)	0.46	

<u>Notes</u>

4A. Currently this is only included at the 2018-19 level and does not reflect further adjustments to be made for the any full year effect of September 2018 AP places deductions and new AP place deductions from September 2019. So, there will still be a budget pressure in 2019-20 and subsequent years.

4B. Reflects the change in DfE policy from September 2019 that DSG Post 16 place funding for maintained special and maintained mainstream schools is no longer recouped to be paid by the ESFA but is to be paid by LAs to its schools.

3.5 The next steps in terms of the DSG notification are detailed in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Next Steps Timetable

Date	Action			
17 December 2018	2019-20 Schools Block			
	2019-20 Provisional Early Years Block			
	2019-20 High Needs Block			
	all announced by DfE			
Early to Mid-January 2019	Further consideration by LAs on the 2019-20			
	Schools Block Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF)			
21 January 2019	LAs submit final APT for Schools Block LSFF			
	formula 2019-20			
February 2019	ESFA publication of 2019-20 HN places at			
	institution level			
28 February 2019	Deadline for LAs to confirm School Budget Shares			
	to maintained schools			
31 March 2019	Deadline for ESFA to confirm General Annual Grant			
	(GAG) to academies open by 9 January 2018			
April 2019	ESFA confirms 2019-20 DSG to be paid to LAs:			
	after recoupment for academies and deductions for			
	HN places in academies and post 16			
June 2019	Early Years Block updated for January 2019 Early			
	Years pupil numbers			
June 2020	Early Years Block updated for January 2020 Earl			
	Years pupil numbers			

4. PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT (PPG)

4.1 For 2019-20, the PPG will continue to be allocated as in 2018-19.

4.2 Also in 2019-20, the pupil premium will continue to include: -

- Looked after children (LAC) defined in Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of or provided with accommodation by an English LA.
- Children who have ceased to be looked after by a LA in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order.
- Pupils in year groups' reception to year 11 recorded as Ever 6 service child or in receipt of child pension from the Ministry of Defence.

• Eligible EY pupils.

4.3 A summary of the PP funding rates is shown in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Summary of PP Funding Rates

Phase/Type	2018-19 £	2019-20 £
Primary	1,320	1,320
Secondary	935	935
LAC	2,300	2,300
Service Children	300	300
Early Years	300 Full Year	300 Full Year
	(£0.53 per hour)	(£0.53 per hour)

5. EDUCATION SERVICES GRANT (ESG)

5.1 The former ESG grant for retained statutory duties for all maintained schools and academies is now a centrally retained budget in the Central School Services Block DSG.

5.2 The former ESG for general duties for maintained schools only was withdrawn by the DfE from September 2017. The WSF maintained school members resolved at its meeting on 21st November 2018 **not** to de-delegate resource to support the loss of ESG general duties.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The WSF notes and discusses the above allocations.

Sue Alexander Head of Financial Management Adults, Children, Families and Communities

Andy McHale Service Manager Funding and Policy Children, Families and Communities

January 2019

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) 2019-20

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) 2019-20							
	UNITS OF FUNDING	PROVISIONAL JULY 2018		INITIAL DECEMBER 2018		VARIANCE	
	£	Pupil Nos.	£'m	Pupil Nos.	£'m	Pupil Nos.	£'m
SCHOOLS BLOCK							
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF) Secondary Unit of Funding (GUF)	3,872.46 4,975.38	44006 28209.5	170.411 140.353	44012.5 28873	170.436 143.654	6.5 663.5	0.024 3.301
		72215.5	310.764	72885.5	314.090	670	3.325
Historic Premises Historic Pupil Growth Fund			7.488 0.700		7.488 1.736		0.000 1.036
S-T		Γ	318.952	C	323.314		4.361
CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK							
Formulaic Historic Commitments			2.272 1.500		2.293 1.500		0.021 0.000
S-T		Γ	3.772	C	3.793		0.021
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK		Γ	50.351	C	51.965	C	1.614
TOTAL EXCLUDING EARLY YEARS		[373.075	C	379.072	C	5.996
EARLY YEARS							
3 & 4 Year Olds Universal Hourly Rate x PTE x Hours x Weeks	4.30 15 38			8053.5 PTE	19.739		
Extended Hourly Rate	4.30 15 38			3616.00 PTE	8.863		
2 Year Olds Universal Hourly Rate x PTE x Hours x Weeks	5.20 15 38			1158.00 PTE	3.432		
Pupil Premium Disability Access Fund Nursery School Supplement					0.191 0.126 0.082		
S-T				٢	32.433		
TOTAL INDICATIVE DSG				C	411.505		

WORCESTERSHIRE (WCC) 885 - GROSS DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) 2018-19 & 2019-20 DECEMBER 2018

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NOTES

This is the <u>GROSS DSG</u> indicative allocation <u>PRIOR TO</u> academy and HN places recoupment. The HNB will also change for a revision to the import/export adjustment due in June 2019.

The EYB will be updated using the January 2019 school census. The NET DSG that is paid to WCC for the SB and HNB will depend upon the in year academy conversions and HN places recoupment and so will change during the year.

APPENDIX B

AGENDA ITEM 8 WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM <u>16th JANUARY 2019</u>

REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF) THE SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS FINANCE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2018 AND DSG CONDITIONS OF GRANT 2019-20

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To advise the WSF on the current positon on the above regulations and DSG conditions of grant for 2019-20.

2. THE SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS FINANCE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2018 AND DSG CONDITIONS OF GRANT

2.1 On 28th November 2018 the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018 for 2019-20 and the DSG Conditions of Grant. The details are in the attached link: -

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1185/contents/made

2.2 These were laid before Parliament on 15th November 2018 and came into force on 7th December 2018.

2.3 No significant changes are included other than the changes required for the NFF parameter issues.

2.4 On 17th December 2018 the DfE published the DSG Conditions of Grant. The details are in the attached link: -

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2019-to-2020

2.5 There are no significant changes to report for 2019-20.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The WSF notes the current position as detailed.

Andy McHale Service Manager Funding and Policy Children, Families and Communities

January 2019

AGENDA ITEM 9 WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM <u>16th JANUARY 2019</u>

REPORT TO THE WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM (WSF) SCHOOLS BLOCK ALLOCATIONS 2019-20 AUTHORITY PROFORMA TOOL (APT)

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To update the WSF on the current position for the completion of the final Schools Block Authority Proforma Tool (APT) for 2019-20.

1.2 For the WSF to endorse and support the submission of the APT for 2019-20.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting on 14th December 2017, the Worcestershire County Council Cabinet: -

- Approved the 2018-19 and 2019-20 Local Schools Funding Formula (LSFF) to be consultation Option 2 based **as far as is practicable and affordable** upon the National Funding Formula (NFF) parameters.
- Authorised the Director of Children, Families and Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills to make the required submission to the national executive body, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by 19th January 2018 for the approved Local Schools Funding Formula for 2018-19 taking account of any impact and change on the approved units of resource, Minimum Funding Guarantee and capping arrangements as consequence of the October 2017 census and other 2017 data changes and the final 2018-19 Dedicated School Grant and similarly for 2019-20 when the timescales are known.

3. APT CURRENT POSITION

3.1 Now that the DfE have updated all the data sets for October 2018 and issued provisional DSG allocations for 2019-20 LAs are required to submit their final APT by 21st January 2019.

3.2 The final APT for 2019-20 was issued by the DfE on 17th December 2018 together with the School Funding settlement for 2019-20.

3.3 The overall analysis of the DSG was provided at Agenda Item 7.

3.4 The LA is continuing to work on the APT in order to submit by the above deadline. A draft of the current position of the APT summary proforma for 2019-20 will be available at the WSF meeting.

3.5 This will be based upon the units of resource agreed by the Autumn Term consultation and County Council Cabinet on 14th December 2017, any changes to the NNF rates Year 2 made by the DfE, the recently provided DfE data sets for 2018 and other required local data sets e.g. rates.

3.6 An analysis of the Schools Block DSG funding detailing the estimated amount to be included in the LSFF for mainstream schools is detailed in **Table 1**. This is prior to de-

delegation for maintained schools and after adjusting for centrally retained services and functions already agreed and those prescribed by the DfE.

Table 1: Analysis of Schools Block 2019-20

DETAIL	£'000	£'000
Schools Block Provisional Allocation		
Primary Unit of Resource £3,872.46 x Pupil Numbers	170,436	
Secondary Unit of Resource £4,975.38 x Pupil Numbers	143,654	
+ Premises Costs Historic Costs Allocation	7,488	
= Total LSFF Quantum 2019-20		321,578
+ Pupil Growth Fund DfE Formula Allocation		1,736
= Total Schools Block DSG		323,314
<u>Centrally Retained Budgets (Previously Approved by WSF and WCC Cabinet</u>		
Contributions to Combined Services – Early Intervention Family		
Support	1,500	
Co-ordinated School Admissions	696	
Servicing of the Schools Forum ESG Retained Duties Transfer for all schools into Schools Block	55 1,163	
	,	
DfE Designated Centrally Retained Budgets Licenses and Subscriptions – DfE Estimated	380	
Licenses and Subscriptions - DIE Estimated	500	
= Total Centrally Retained		3,794
- Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) Allocated		3,793
= Projected Surplus/(Deficit) on CSSB		(1)

3.7 This compares to the LSFF net amount in 2018-19 of \pounds 314.106m. A comparison of the changed position is detailed in **Table 2**: -

Table 2: Comparison of LSFF Actual 2018-19 and Estimated 2019-20

DETAIL	£'000
LSFF 2018-19	314,106
Adjustments	
Under Allocated 2018-19 (Support to PGF and Other Issues)	441
Initial Effect of NFF for Schools Block July 2018 Additional DSG	3,465
Additional DSG for Increase in Pupil Numbers October 2018	3,325
Additional Historic Premises	241
= Estimated Amount for LSFF 2019-20	321,578

3.8 Although this seems a significant increase the additional NFF DSG allocation notified in July 2018 was expected. Also, the increase in pupil numbers of 668.5 (Primary 6.5; Secondary 662) will require funding in the LSFF 2019-20 together with the requirements of LSFF Option 2 i.e. to be based as far as is practicable and affordable upon the National Funding Formula (NFF) parameters for Year 2.

3.9 There is provision made for any additional requirement for Pupil Growth Funding (PGF) as a consequence of the DfEs new formulaic approach. However, there are continuing substantial Primary basic need requirements due to increasing numbers which are now starting to impact in some secondary schools as well as funding required for the New North Worcester Primary Free School. So, all the additional PGF will be required in 2019-20 either as part of the LSFF or the PGF.

3.10 The WSF are reminded that the budgetary impact for each individual school will depend upon: -

- How their individual pupil numbers and all other data varies between October 2017 and October 2018.
- The Schools Block DSG increase between 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- The impact across all schools.
- The impact of the LSFF Option 2 for the NFF parameters i.e. the MFG requirement and associated capping level together with the primary, middle and secondary Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs).
- The impact and affordability of the Minimum Funding Levels (MFL) per pupil for the total budget: –
 - Primary increasing from £3,300 2018-19 to £3,500 in 2019-20.
 - Secondary increasing from £4,600 2018-19 to £4,800 in 2019-20.
 - Middle new hybrid MFL rates of £3,500 for primary pupils and £4,600 for KS3 pupils.
 - > All Through Schools a hybrid MFL rate based upon the sector year groups.
- The local approval to set a further MFG of +0.5% per pupil in 2019-20 and as associated affordability cap of a further +3% in 2019-20.
- The MFG no longer has to be applied only to the extent that it offsets the cost of the MFG, since that could prevent LAs from coming close to the NFF. So a more flexible cap estimated at +3% in both years can and will have to be applied for affordability purposes.

3.11 The WSF are advised that: -

- The increase in the Schools Block reflects both the effect of the NFF and an increase of 688.5 pupils in mainstream schools between October 2017 and October 2018 within both the primary and secondary sectors.
- Although overall numbers have increased, there are also some significant variations with increases and decreases for individual schools, which will create some budgetary impact for those schools.
- Given the additional resource from the NFF in the Schools Block and the LSFF being based as far as is practicable on the NFF parameters, including a +0.5% per pupil Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) protection, most schools will see increases in 2019-20 with some up to 3.0% per pupil the level of the NFF funding cap.
- However, **the MFG is a per pupil not a cash protection**, so the LSFF even when based on the NFF parameters, cannot protect schools from the effect of data changes between 2017 and 2018.

• As a consequence some schools will see reductions in funding due to these data changes mainly due to significant reductions in pupil numbers. Nevertheless, all schools in the DfE NFF parameters are subject to at least a +0.5% per pupil increase on 2018-19.

3.12 The Schools Block DSG is calculated using the pupil numbers from the October 2018 census using the DfE NFF guaranteed units of funding per sector. The December 2017 Cabinet approved units of resource for the LSFF were set based on the NFF parameters. The DfE have changed the Primary Low Prior Attainment (LPA) unit of resource in the NFF to reflect changes to the data sets from the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Profile and the MFLs rates.

3.13 Given the DSG settlement and the APT were confirmed just prior to the end of the Autumn Term 2018 assessment and the impact on the submitted APT of all the above together with the data changes for 2018 is currently being made. The results of the impact of the revised DSG and new data sets will be shared at the WSF meeting as **Appendix A** to this report to enable final submission to the DfE by 21st January 2019 as required.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The WSF notes the issues detailed and the estimated amount available for the LSFF for the Schools Block Funding for 2019-20.

4.2 The WSF considers the issues detailed for the APT Units of Resource and the potential aspects for the impact on the Schools Block DSG.

4.3 The WSF supports and endorses the submission of the APT final Schools Block Funding 2019-20 to the EFA by 21st January 2019 as required.

Sue Alexander Head of Financial Management Adults, Children, Families and Communities

Andy McHale Service Manager Funding and Policy Children, Families and Communities

January 2019

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF CURRENT POSITION ON THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PROFORMA TOOL (APT) 2019-20

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To share with the WSF the current position on the APT.

1.2 To discuss with the WSF the APT outcomes and next stages.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As detailed in the **Agenda Item 9** report the LA has been working on the APT for final submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by 21st January 2019.

2.2 The main work so far has included: -

- Validating all the 2018-19 baseline information by school has been transferred correctly by the ESFA.
- Adjusting for academy conversions since 2018-19.
- Verifying as far as practicable the main October 2018 census data i.e. pupil numbers in particular.
- Securing the up to date local data for inclusion particularly for rates.
- Including in the APT the approved local funding formula units of resource for all formula factors in 2019-20 based on Option 2 i.e. the DfE NFF rates and DfE MFG and capping rates for 2019-20.
- Assessing the quantum of funding available from the School Block DSG 2019-20 arising from the School Funding Settlement in December 2018.
- Assessing the affordability or otherwise of the LSFF based upon the DfE NFF Year 2.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The current APT position is detailed in **Annex A**.

3.2 As detailed in **Agenda Item 9** the estimated quantum for the LSFF in 2019-20 is £321.578m plus a further sum of £1.736m from the national Pupil Growth Fund.

3.3 The current APT position using the approved units of resource, other data and the Year 2 NFF parameters for the MFG, Capping and the sector Minimum Funding Levels is \pounds 322.121m – an **over allocation of \pounds0.543m** against the \pounds 321.578m excluding the Pupil Growth Fund.

3.4 The WSF are reminded as in 2018-19 in 2019-20 the Option 2 parameters based on the NFF cannot be fully replicated through the APT due to some of the starting baselines used by the ESFA. As a consequence the draft APT uses the DfE quoted NFF rates, applied MFG at +0.5% per pupil and a capping level of +3.09% per pupil. This means the overall amount obtained from capping is now less than overall cost of the MFG, which is permitted by the ESFA.

3.5 The WSF are further reminded the **MFG is a per pupil not a cash protection**, so the LSFF even when based on the NFF parameters, cannot protect schools from the effect of significant data changes between 2017 and 2018 e.g. reductions in pupil numbers and other data sets such as FSM, low prior attainment, etc. This data is controlled and supplied by the DfE in the APT and cannot be changed.

3.6 As a consequence some schools will see reductions in funding due to these data changes. Nevertheless, all schools could be subject to at least a +0.5% per pupil increase as a consequence of the MFG in the LSFF being based upon the NFF parameters.

3.7 The WSF are advised the new DfE data and Option 2 parameters will have to drive the allocations and so cannot be amended along with the units of resource as approved unless there is a Schools Block DSG quantum issue. Varying from this approach is not appropriate – as in previous years the data and local formula parameters run.

3.8 The WSF are further advised the APT is draft only and it is not final until the ESFA have approved the APT following their detailed compliance checks – this will take some time following submission. As a consequence school by school data is never shared at this time as is not available until all maintained schools and academies have received their allocations.

4. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Currently there is an **over allocation predicted of £0.543m**. This includes the potential effect of the new North Worcester Primary Free School, which is a call on the DSG funded on estimated numbers not included in the October 2018 census. Also, there is still some local data still to be finalised e.g. rates which could impact.

4.2 The WSF are requested to consider the issues for dealing with this as follows: -

- Divert from the NFF Year 2 parameters due to affordability by: -
 - Adjusting the AWPU or other formula factor units of resource the issue here is any change to these cannot be disapplied from the MFG/Capping. So using these will not lead to any significant change merely a recycling of the current quantum between schools.
 - Revise the allocations that are still draft e.g. rates.
 - Adjust the MFG and/or capping % potentially has no effect on other formula factors but the current model includes the DfE Year 2 MFG and Capping rates. This would require changing the MFG and Capping from the NFF Year 2 parameters.
 - Not introducing the full change sector Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs) by reducing by a specific amount to fund the projected shortfall.
- Consider the use of the increased Pupil Growth Fund from the DfE national formula on this to support the LSFF for: -
 - The cost of the New North Worcester Primary Free School. There is a need to include their estimated numbers in the LSFF but this is not reflected in the DSG settlement for 2019-20 due to the DfEs lagged funding system. The estimated effect of this in the LSFF is approximately £0.25m. This will require a change to the approved PGF criteria and draft wording is attached *in italics* at Annex B for consideration and WSF approval if required.
 - Some of the additional PGF will also be required to support the increasing pressure on the Pupil Growth Fund. However, there may be some scope for

further support to the LSFF, which was the opposite position in 2018-19. The WSF are reminded that a sum of £0.3m was added to the local PGF in 2018-19 but this was not reflected in the DfE PGF national formula starting baseline. Also the LA gains from the DfEs new national formula for pupil growth which may not all be required for this issue. This course of action could be challenged by the ESFA.

• Allocate the LSFF using the NFF Year 2 parameters and carry forward the shortfall to be the first call on to the Schools Block in 2020-21. It is anticipated based upon the DfE estimates in July 2018 a full NFF in Year 3 will allocate at least a further £0.6m of Schools Block DSG in 2020-21.

ANNEX A

ANALYSIS OF DRAFT APT 2018-19 COMPARED TO 2019-20

FORMULA COMPONENT	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	VARIANCE
	APT	<u>APT</u>	Clim
	<u>£'m</u>	<u>£'m</u>	<u>£'m</u>
AWPU	235.5	238.3	+2.8
Deprivation - FSM	13.1	13.1	0.0
Deprivation - IDACI	8.3	8.4	+0.1
Low Prior Attainment	25.7	25.9	+0.2
EAL	1.6	1.5	-0.1
Lump Sum	24.8	24.9	+0.1
Sparsity	0.2	0.2	0.0
Split Site	0.5	0.6	+0.1
Rates	4.2	4.0	-0.2
PFI	2.4	2.5	+0.1
Exceptional Premises	0.4	0.4	0.0
NFF Minimum Funding Levels (MFLs)	0.1	1.7	+1.6
Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)	0.7	1.5	+0.8
LSFF Prior to Capping	317.5	323.0	+5.5
Capping	-3.4	-0.9	+2.5
TOTAL	314.1	322.1	+8.0
Schools Block DSG Quantum	314.5	321.6	
(Under)/Over Allocation	(0.4)	0.5	
	To PGF 0.3	From PGF (0.4)
	Other 0.1	Other (0.1)
LSFF Formula Parameters			
DfE NFF rates for 2018-19 and 2019-2	0: -		
All Formula Factor Units of Resource			
Minimum Funding Levels Primary Pupils Middle KS3 Pupils Secondary KS3 & KS4 Pupils		,300 £3,500 N/A £4,600 ,600 £4,800	

+0.5%

+3.0%

on 2017-18 on 2018-19

on 2017-18 on 2018-19

+0.5%

+3.0%

Floors and Ceilings Per Pupil Minimum Funding Guarantee

Capping

PROPOSED REVISION TO EXISTING PUPIL GROWTH FUND CRITERIA

Additional funding for mainstream maintained schools and academies to support basic need will be made available in circumstances where: -

- The LA carries out a formal consultation and approves to increase the capacity of a school.
- The LA requests schools to increase their PAN and the school has the capacity.
- The LA requests schools to admit significant additional pupils as a consequence of a school closure.

Additional funding will be made in relation to the number of additional pupils taken.

Funding will be given: -

For maintained schools on a 7/12 basis only to cover the period September to March each year as the period April to August will be covered by the schools budget being based on numbers from the previous October census.

For academies on a full year basis to cover the period September to August each year as additional funding based upon the previous October census does not start until the beginning of the next academic year. This will be payable in two instalments in the Autumn and Summer Terms to reflect the two different financial years in the LA.

No allocation will be made to a school that has not been the subject of a consultation where a school: -

- Has surplus places and then takes additional children up to the PAN.
- Admits over PAN at their own choice.
- Is directed and/or requested to admit additional pupils as result of errors, appeals, fair access panel, SEN, LAC, etc as these numbers will be extremely low on an individual school basis.

Funding will be allocated on the increase in actual numbers on the difference in pupils leaving in the previous year top year group and those joining in the new academic year admitting year group. For example, in a primary school between the numbers leaving Year 6 and numbers entering Reception for 7 years from date of increased capacity.

This principle will apply in all cases. The LA reserves the right to re-consider this if there are genuine reasons why a school is not up to the basic need requirement in the October census and the following January census reflects the more appropriate position.

As permitted the LA will also consider the use of the Pupil Growth Fund to support the cost of new schools impact on the Schools Block DSG for the required allocations in the APT submission for any new mainstream schools opened under the DfE Free Schools programme. This will be assessed on an individual school basis and reflect the cost to the Schools Block DSG of including estimated pupil numbers and other data in the APT, which due to lagged funding the pupil numbers and other data are not funded in the actual DSG allocation until the following year.

AGENDA ITEM 10a) WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM 16th JANUARY 2019



16 November 2019

The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP Chancellor of The Exchequer, The Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ

Dear Chancellor

The importance of a fair funding deal for schools

As the new chair of the f40 Group of local authorities I am writing to express my disappointment with the inadequate attention paid to schools in the Autumn Statement and to emphasise the importance of additional resources being made available for future years via the 2019 Comprehensive Spending Review.

The f40 group, which has been campaigning for fairer funding for schools for over two decades, is convinced there is a better and more equitable way for the government to allocate funding to local authorities and schools. We seek fairness and equal opportunities in education for all children regardless of where they live, and to equip schools to provide a quality education for all children to meet the future needs of Britain.

The allocations for primary and secondary pupils in the authorities in the f40 group are among the lowest in the country. Following the school funding consultations in 2016 and 2017, f40 hoped that the case for fair funding for schools had been won as the government agreed that the funding allocation system was unjustifiable and unfair. The introduction of a National Funding Formula (NFF) and additional funding for 2018-19 and 2019-20 were welcomed and f40 viewed the overall outcome as another step towards fairer funding.

Regrettably, the NFF did not deliver a new formula that is adequate and acceptable, especially for the poorest local authorities and schools. It falls considerably short of what was expected and f40 has concluded that the government has replaced one unfair system with another. We believe that the NFF does not deliver true fairness and is, therefore, in need of fundamental change and we are making our case to the Secretary of State for Education, but also wish HM Treasury to understand why we are continuing to campaign for a better and fairer funding deal. Our main concerns are:

1. MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

f40 seeks a £2billion increase in the amount invested in Schools Block funding to meet the cost pressures facing all schools.

Cost pressures are significant for all schools, but those in the lowest funded areas have been forced to prioritise funding to meet core costs at the expense of improving outcomes for vulnerable pupils. Pay and inflationary cost pressures, such as teachers pay increases (which are only partially funded) are significant. Cuts in local government have pushed cost burdens to schools for aspects of youth work, parental support and social care. Equally, low funding for post-16 courses in schools have

created additional pressures. The government must take account of f40's index linked activity-led formula (previously presented to the DfE and referenced below) which sets out the true costs of delivering to Ofsted standards. This clearly shows the real cost of running a school. f40 believes the current funding shortfall in schools is £2bn pa.

f40 continues to argue for an index-linked activity-led formula to ensure sufficient funding in the system, which is correctly balanced to meet needs.

Funding continues to be directed on historic considerations and the average of decisions made by local authorities that had different spending powers. There is no rationale: there is no real understanding of the needs of schools or the needs of children. f40 believes funding should be appropriately and correctly targeted to specific needs or ages with reference to an activity-led formula, such as the well regarded f40 model. Providing an activity-based formula would allow for future changes of policy direction and enable the government to create a world class system of education to allow our pupils to compete in the post-Brexit age with the rest of the world. In addition, index linking would mean that the activity-led formula could keep pace with the cost changes occurring around them.

f40 seeks a review of the amount of funding for basic entitlement relative to the educational additional needs.

Schools cannot provide appropriate support for pupils with additional needs, from deprived backgrounds or with special educational needs if they cannot afford to run a core education for all. The basic entitlement funds the core cost of schools (e.g. teachers and heating) and must be sufficient to run the school before the costs of additional support are added to school budgets. The NFF should be underpinned by f40's index-linked activity-led formula to set out the basic entitlement funding to meet the core cost of running a school and the extra cost of additional services for SEN and deprivation.

f40 seeks one NFF without the need for Minimum Funding Levels (MFL) and long-term locked-in protections.

One of the key principles set out in the early NFF consultations, supported by f40, was that pupils of similar characteristics should attract similar levels of funding wherever they are in the country (allowing for the area cost adjustment). Therefore, NFF should be applied to all schools on a consistent basis. However, the protections applied, such as the 0.5% funding floor, 'lock in' some of the historical differences for those schools which have been comparatively well funded for several decades. The government must continue to develop the national formula so that it is fit for the future i.e. is fairer, more easily understood, transparent and adjustable. Transition to the new formula is sensible but locking in past inequalities is not.

If the Minimum Funding Level is here to stay, then it should be fairly applied to take account of the additional educational needs (AEN) of individual schools.

The MFL is unnecessary. An activity-led NFF should undertake this role. The MFL is applied to bring schools up to an artificial minimum level, but schools with pupils with few additional needs are being funded at the same level of funding as a school with a greater number of additional needs pupils. This is not fair. Ultimately, we wish to see the removal of the MFL, or in the short term it should be modified to take account of varying levels of additional education needs in the calculation.

The NFF needs to cover all the funding for mainstream schools, not just the pupil-led elements.

Within the NFF there will always be elements that are individual to each school such as property related costs, e.g. business rates and sparsity. Funding for these cannot continue to be based upon historical costs. The government must introduce mechanisms to deal with exceptional premises funding. Exceptional premises should be funded at realistic, not historical levels. F40 believes that all schools should be exempted from business rates with a one-off compensating cost adjustment nationally for local government.

f40 seeks continued funding flexibility to support specific local issues and organisational requirements.

No two schools in the country are exactly the same, but the NFF assumes all schools are almost identical. There are good local reasons why some schools have costs that others do not have, and an inflexible national system cannot support these schools equitably. Some local flexibility is essential in achieving a fair formula that works and stands the test of time. The government should allow an element/percentage of the formula to be targeted using local discretion (via the Schools Forum or similar representative group).

f40 seeks to see plans for the funding formula beyond 2020 and the establishment of rolling 3-4 year budget settlements for schools which are inflation-proofed, including funding for cost-of-living increases.

We understand what the final values of the NFF may be, though these are not yet achievable because of the funding shortfall. There is no information about funding for 2021-22, yet schools are expected to plan 3-5 years ahead. If there are changes to be made, schools need time to plan and achieve that change. School funding is dependent on Comprehensive Spending Reviews, but the education of children doesn't stop in the interim. The reality is that the vast majority of school budgeting is pre-determined. Why then is it necessary to hold back the whole school funding announcement in such circumstances? Whilst the CSR is an important government control, there is enough known about the system to make an educated estimate of future pupil numbers and future funding requirements. A 3-4 year rolling settlement could be achieved for the vast majority of funding without Parliament losing control of what it wants to achieve.

2. HIGH NEEDS

f40 seeks an immediate injection of emergency funding for the high needs block.

There is an emerging crisis in high needs funding, created in part by the continued use of historic funding levels, that f40 urges the government to address before permanent damage is done to very many vulnerable pupils. The Department for Education's short-term attempts to fix the problem are woefully inadequate. The demand for high needs funding is out-stripping the budgets available to local authorities across the country, resulting in serious deficits in the high needs block in over half of all local authorities. Many are finding it extremely difficult to recover these deficits and cuts to existing high needs services and pupil top-up funding makes what provision that is available simply unsustainable. The complexity of the high needs services demanded by more and more children (and their parents) is far greater than was the case just a few years ago, more accurate medical assessment and improved methods of treatment increase demand still further. Such increasing needs requires recognition through the national high needs formula.

f40 is calling for an immediate injection of new funding, estimated on increased costs and demand since 2015 as at least £1.5bn pa, and the introduction of an annual index-linked review for this block. This is the block of funding that supports the most vulnerable pupils in our schools: those with complex SEN, those who are excluded or at risk of exclusion and those that cannot access education for medical reasons. We have asked the DfE to undertake a review of SEN policy and guidance to help manage down demand more effectively.

3. EARLY YEARS

f40 seeks a review of the early years national formula to make it fit for future use, together with an increase in the quantum of funding for early years providers to take account of the pressures of the living wage and the impact of 30 hours.

There have been no universal increases in funding rates for early years providers, yet the cost of introduction of the living wage and separately increased employer costs are having a significant impact on the nursery sector, which traditionally employs a higher proportion of low paid workers

than many other employment sectors. Providers are expected to implement 30 hours for working parents which means more of their working week at the national rate, with fewer opportunities to cover any shortfall in costs. Thus, providers are finding it increasingly difficult to provide early education. There must be an immediate injection of new funding and the introduction of an annual index-linked review for this block

Additionally, nursery schools are required through regulation to have unique cost factors so moving to a single hourly rate across all providers will not be sustainable. The uncertainty over future plans is causing turbulence in our schools which is unhelpful. The government must change the rules so that local authorities are able to properly fund nursery schools.

4. OTHER MATTERS

f40 seeks clarity on the way that the Central Schools Services Block will work and be increased in future.

Not all funding to support education is directed via the NFF. Funding that is directed by the Central Schools Services Block for services such as combined budgets are being funded at historic levels and not keeping pace with the requirements that are made on them. The central services block should be index linked to meet increasing costs.

f40 wants to see parity with Multi Academy Trusts

f40 understands that MATs are different to maintained schools and are part of the future landscape for schools, but we would like to see MATs being held more accountable for some of the decisions that they make, especially with regard to pay and distribution of funding between individual academies in the MAT. A national funding formula should mean equality for all schools, including those in MATS and we would welcome appropriate legislation to facilitate parity.

f40 seeks a review of the way that Home to School Transport is funded and used.

We recognise that Home to School Transport is not part of the Dedicated Schools Grant. However, it is an ongoing problem for rural authorities, particularly as more schools become academies. Costs are rising faster than funding leading to significant restrictions on school transport locally. Local authorities have lost strategic control but are required to provide services in accordance with the legislation but with declining funding. SEN Transport is also a growing problem with costs continuing to rise as a result of the growing SEN population and the challenge in finding available appropriate placements. The government needs to recognise the real impact of reducing school transport on pupil choices. Again, we would welcome legislative change and additional funding.

As chair of f40 I appreciate that this list of demands in lengthy and potentially expensive, but I firmly believe that substantial additional resources and a revised approach to their allocation is urgently needed. I recall our Party Manifesto promise in relation to school funding and I would be grateful to receive some indication from you of the timeline for the complete delivery on this commitment. I am also keenly aware of a statement made recently in an interview with the BBC's Nick Robinson where you suggested that a review of school funding would occur in the next Comprehensive Spending Review.

I trust that the above listed critically important matters will be fully addressed.

Yours Sincerely

ICT mas Kaulos

Cllr James McInnes, Chair of the f40 Group and

(james.mcinnes@devon.gov.uk)

Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Schools Devon County Council County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4QD



2018-0045389POGibb

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Councillor James McInnes Chair, f40 Group By email: james.mcinnes@devon.gov.uk

3º November 2018

and Ar Milmes

Thank you for your letter of 16 November, addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, regarding school funding. Your letter was passed to this Department and I am replying as the Minister of State for School Standards.

The Secretary of State was pleased to meet you and enjoyed his visit to two schools in Devon recently. We look forward to continuing these helpful discussions in the future and I understand that you are meeting officials from the Department in December.

While there is more money going into our schools than ever before, we do recognise the budgeting challenges schools face and that we are asking them to do more. As you are aware, we have invested an extra £1.3 billion over the period 2018-19 and 2019-20, over and above the budget set at the Spending Review in 2015. Core funding for schools and high needs will rise from almost £41 billion in 2017-18 to £42.4 billion in 2018-19 and £43.5 billion in 2019-20. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that real terms per pupil funding for 5 to 16 year olds in 2020 will be more than 50 per cent higher than it was in 2000, and more than 70 per cent higher than in 1990.

However, schools are already benefitting from the gains delivered by the national funding formula, which has allocated an increase for every pupil in every school in 2018-19. The f40 counties will attract an average funding increase of 4.1 per cent per pupil by 2019-20, compared to 2017-18. This is significantly higher than the national average increase of 3.1 per cent and represents a total increase of £602 million for f40 areas, when rising pupil numbers are taken into account. Funding will increase from an average of $\pounds4,239$ per pupil in 2017-18, to $\pounds4,412$ in 2019-20, subject to changes in pupil numbers.

In 2019-20, all schools will attract an increase in per pupil funding of at least 1 per cent, compared to their 2017-18 baselines. Those schools that have been historically underfunded will attract up to 6 per cent more per pupil, compared to 2017-18. This is a further 3 per cent per pupil in addition to the 3 per cent gained in 2018-19.

Spending plans beyond 2019-20 will be set at the next Spending Review and we cannot pre-empt these decisions. I am, however, committed to securing the right deal for education and ensuring that schools can budget effectively.

With regard to high needs funding, we have increased overall funding allocations to local authorities by £130 million last year and £142 million this year. The f40 local authorities have received a combined high needs allocation of £2.1 billion this year, £35.5 million more than last year. However, we recognise that local authorities are experiencing cost pressures on their high needs budgets, and we keep the formula and the overall high needs budget under review.

We recognise that local authorities and schools are facing cost pressures. Our recently announced strategy sets out the support provided to schools, current and planned, to help them reduce costs. This includes a new national deal to provide schools with greater transparency on costs when hiring agency supply teachers and temporary staff. Approximately 70 deals will be live by the end of this academic year. The financial benchmarking service allows schools to assess their spending levels and identify potential savings.

We want to continue to work with the f40 Group as we develop the schools funding system and maintain the constructive relationship we have previously enjoyed.

With best wishes.

Ya mie Nih

AGENDA ITEM 10b) WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM <u>16th JANUARY 2019</u>



Note of meeting with DfE held Wednesday, 5 December 2018

DfE:

- Tony Foot, Director, Funding and Analysis Directorate, Early Years and Schools Group
- Tom Goldman, Deputy Director, Funding Policy Unit
- Helen Alderton, Funding Policy Unit
- Marie Brennan, Flexible Resource Unit (by tele-conference)
- F40:
 - Cllr James McInnes, Chair of f40 and Cabinet Member for Childrens and Schools, Devon County Council
 - Margaret Judd, f40 Executive Committee Member/Chair f40's Finance Managers Research Team (FMRT) and Sufficiency & Funding Team Manager, Dorset County Council
 - Julia Harnden, f40 Executive Committee Member, FMRT member and Funding Specialist, ASCL
 - Sara Harding, f40 Executive Committee Member and Headteacher at Regency High School, Worcester
 - Adrian Fox, FMRT Member and Head Accountant for Education & Learning, Devon County Council
 - Doug Allan, Secretary of f40

1. Introductions

2. Discussion

JMcl thanked the DfE team for the opportunity to continue the discussion about school funding and the NFF. Maintaining a good working relationship is very important.

F40 had previously provided a copy of the group's latest Briefing Paper and updated Narrative in support of the f40 modelling. MJ refreshed memories about the intellectual basis of the modelling and went through the Narrative paper page by page, explaining f40's approach to various elements:

- the key formula factors used to reach basic entitlement (AWPU) and to identify an amount per pupil and levels of Lump Sum
- explanation of how information re Teaching Assistants was reached
- similarly, about direct employee costs and leadership
- recognised that calculations of this kind are difficult there are as many answers as there are headteachers! But MJ explained how f40 had gone about it.
- things have happened since the original model was prepared that were not anticipated and those elements need to be checked.
- the model does not totally reflect the increasing pastoral care that schools are now picking up as a result of reductions in support to families elsewhere in the social care system (but which was less of an issue in 2016-17)
- in case of deprivation factor values, f40 did not try to produce a 'build-up' methodology, but believes the deprivation factors are about right (and are in line with similar work undertaken by ASCL)
- RPI inflation applied to each year for factors not explicitly increased by another method
- noted that as IDACI does not work in all areas so f40 has used Ever 6 FSM, which could potentially be used in conjunction with DWP figures

- f40 understands the politics of Pupil Premium, but still hopes it may eventually be incorporated in to mainstream funding
- local authorities had various approaches adopted for dealing with sparsity and additional needs.

TG said his purpose was not to critique the f40 proposals but rather to test the ideas for potential issues and problems. He could see issues with some of the figures and basic concepts, and in his view some of the basic assumptions need reviewing. He suggested that from a technocratic viewpoint he isn't a fan of providing a sum for 'x' pupils without having a clear understanding of who is being provided for.

f40 responded that whilst the DfE may not use their model directly, it does provide a good basis for identifying the quantum needed and the differentials between schools/LAs. It also provides a mechanism for costing additional priorities into schools with changes in curriculum.

TG asked why is the academic year for budgeting f40's choice? MJ suggested that in reality f40 didn't hold a view one way or the other which year was adopted, as long as there is only one for all schools. F40 recognises the fact that academisation was continuing and therefore the realistic choice was along those lines.

HA acknowledged that f40 is trying to offer a starting point for the department.

JMcI reminded those present that High Needs is in crisis and LAs are approaching breaking point. There is a need for more special schools, but LAs appear to be 'locked out' of access to necessary resources and answers. He wondered if there is any new thinking in the department. TF said that work is going on but there's nothing to report at this point. MJ said that she hopes the DfE has a clear understanding of what has changed 'on the ground' in High Needs. SH spoke about 'life in the real world' where schools are under enormous pressure caused by a massive increase in demand...with even higher demand anticipated in years to come. TG acknowledged that it is a very complex area. The idea of identifying the key 4 or 5 things that could reduce pressure was discussed.

DA suggested that he would take the department's comments to a meeting of f40's Finance Manager Research Team, the team of LA officers that developed the model, and ask them to revisit the basic principles and various factors/values upon which the modelling is predicated, plus a review of the language used.

TF said he had found the meeting very useful and constructive. He stated that he had picked up some useful ideas and insight from his recent trip to Devon, and was thinking about how these could be applied in practice. He also asked if f40 can share its spreadsheets once the modelling is further developed. He thanked f40's representatives for taking the time to meet and discuss school funding and looked forward to further meetings.

End DA/15 Dec 2018

Converted schools As At 1st January 2019	Count of Schools Type
Grand Total	106
Advance Trust	4
Newbridge Secondary Short Stay School	1 AP
Riversides	1 Special
The Kingfisher	1 Special
Vale of Evesham	1 Special
Bishop Anthony Trust	1
Tenbury CE Primary	1 Primary
Oasis Community Learning Oasis Academy Warndon	1 1 Primary
Avonreach MAT	4
Pershore High School	1 Secondary
Cherry Orchard First	1 First
Norton Juxta Kempsey First School	1 First
Inkberrow First Ormiston Academies Trust	1 First
Tenbury High School Our Lady of Lourdes MAC	1 Secondary 4
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic First	1 First
St Augustine's Catholic High	1 Secondary
St Bede's Catholic Middle	1 MDS
St Peter's Catholic First	1 First
RSA Academies	4
Abbeywood First	1 First
Arrow Vale	1 Secondary
Church Hill Middle	1 MDS
Ipsley CE Middle Saint Nicholas Owen Catholic MAC	1 MDS 3
Haqley Catholic High	1 Secondary
St Ambrose Catholic Primary	1 Primary
St Wulstan's Catholic Primary The Griffin Schools Trust	1 Primary
Perry Wood Primary The Rivers CofE MAT	1 Primary 9
Burlish Park Primary	1 Primary
Cranham Primary	1 Primary
Cutnall Green CE First	1 First
Great Witley CE Primary	1 Primary
Heronswood Primary	1 Primary
Northwick Manor Primary	1 Primary
St Clement's CE Primary	1 Primary
St Peter's CE First, Droitwich	1 First
Wychbold First The Severn Academies Educational Trust	1 First
Baxter College	1 Secondary
Stourport Primary	1 Primary
The Stourport High School & Sixth Form Centre	1 Secondary
Hartlebury Primary	1 Primary
St Bartholomew's CE Primary	1 Primary
Wilden All Saints Primary	1 Primary
Wolverley Seabright Primary The Vaynor First School	1 Primary 2
Crabbs Cross Academy	1 First
The Vaynor First School	1 First
Tudor Grange Academies (TGA) Trust	2
TGA Redditch	1 Secondary
TGA Worcester The Villages Multi Academy Trust	1 Secondary 1
The Lyppard Grange Primary School	1 Primary
The Mercian Educational Trust	3
Dines Green Primary	1 Primary
Great Malvern Primary	1 Primary
Somers Park/Malvern Vale Primary	1 Primary
Individual Academies	33
Astwood Bank First	1 First
Bishop Perowne High School	1 Secondary
Bredon Hill Middle Christopher Whitehead Language College	1 MDS 1 Secondary 1 AP
ContinU Plus Academy	1 Secondary
Droitwich Spa High School	1 Secondary
Dyson Perrins CE High School Foley Park Academy and Nursery School Haybridge High School & Sixth Form	1 Primary 1 Secondary
Holy Trinity International School	1 All Through
Honeybourne First	1 First
King Charles 1 High School	1 Secondary
Lickhill Primary	1 Primary
Matchborough First School	1 First
Nunnery Wood High	1 Secondary
Nunnery Wood Primary	1 Primary
Prince Henry's High	1 Secondary
Regency High	1 Special
Ridgeway	1 Secondary
South Bromsgrove HS	1 Secondary
St Matthias CE Primary	1 Primary
Suckley Primary	1 Primary
The Aspire Academy	1 AP
The Chantry High School	1 Secondary
The Chase School	1 Secondary
The Coppice Primary Trinity High School & Sixth Form Centre	1 Primary 1 Secondary 1 MDS
Walkwood Middle School Waseley Hills High Webheath First School	1 Secondary 1 First
Woodfield Middle	1 MDS
Woodrush Community High	1 Secondary
Alvechurch CE Middle Diocese of Worcester MAT (DoWMAT)	1 MDS
Offenham CE First	1 First
The Littletons CE First	1 First
Malvern Parish CE Primary	1 Primary
Castlemorton CE Primary	1 Primary
Powick CE Primary	1 Primary
Pinvin CE First	1 First
St Nicholas CE Middle	1 MDP
Crowle CE First	1 First
St Barnabas CE First and Middle	1 MDP
St. Oswald's CE Primary	1 Primary
Madresfield CE Primary	1 Primary
Hanley and Upton Education Trust (HUET).	4
Hanley Castle High School	1 Secondary
Hanley Swan St Gabriel's with St Mary CE Primary	1 Primary
Kempsey Primary	1 Primary
Wellend Primary	1 Primary
Holy Family Catholic MAC	2
St Mary's Catholic Primary, Broadway	1 Primary
St Mary's Catholic Primary, Evesham	1 Primary
The Black Pear Trust	2
Hollymount Primary	1 Primary
Carnforth Primary	1 Primary
Victoria Academy Trust	1
Birchen Coppice Primary	1 Primary
Bengeworth CE Academy Trust	2
Bengeworth CE First	1 First
Bretforton Village School Gloucester Learning Alliance	1 First
Badsey First Spire CE Learning Trust	1 First
St. John's CE Primary	1 Primary
St John's CE Foundation Middle	1 MDS
Central RSA Academies Trust Sutton Park Primary	1 Primary
South the strength	i Fiilldly

Count of Schools Туре Grand Total 106 First Primary MDP MDS Secondary All Through Special AP 22 41 2 8 25 1 4 3

AGENDA ITEM 11 WORCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM 16th JANUARY 2019