

HAVERING SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM
SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION
FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER 2019

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1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Keith Williams was elected as chair and Kirsten Cooper as vice chair until the first meeting of the autumn term 2020.

2. Government Announcements on Additional Funding

Government announcements of additional funding for schools were summarised as follows:

2020-21	£2.6 billion
2021-22	£2.2 billion
2022-23	£2.3 billion

The £2.6 billion for 2020-21 includes £700 million for High Needs.

Secondary schools are to receive a minimum of £5,000 per pupil and primary schools £3,750 rising to £4,000 in 2021-22. All but one or two Havering schools already receive these minimum amounts.

All core funding factors will increase by 4%. There will be a minimum increase for schools of +0.5%. There will be a new pupil mobility factor to track pupils that joined schools in the spring or summer terms with funding allocated above a 6% threshold.

Having moved to a formula model of allocation based on lagged growth, Havering's pupil growth/falling rolls fund would reduce further to £1.63m from the current £2.5m. Options on funding pupil growth in Havering schools would be considered at a future meeting.

All LAs would receive at least an 8% increase in their high needs funding per head of 2 to 18 population to a maximum of 17%. These would mean at least £1.8 m for Havering.

Pay and Pensions grant would continue to be allocated separately from the NFF.

Early Years funding would increase by £66 million and post 16 by £400 million.

The ESFA's operational guide for LAs and Schools Forums had been issued and was summarised verbally to demonstrate that Havering was compliant with all requirements.

3. DfE Consultations

Two consultation papers had been issued relating to 2020-21 funding.

(i) Implementing mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels

This was a technical document on how to calculate the £5,000 for secondary schools and £3,750 for primary schools. David Allen (DA) would take advice from finance colleagues before responding.

(ii) Extending the Risk Protection Arrangements (RPA) to LA Maintained Schools

Academies are currently able to opt into nationwide insurance arrangements negotiated by the DfE and the consultation was about extending this to LA maintained schools. One of the benefits of this was to reduce the cost per pupil to schools, currently £18 for academies.

Paul McLoughlin spoke about the additional services and support offered by the Havering insurance arrangements that would not be received through the RPA. Both LA Maintained and Academy representatives on the Schools Forum spoke in support of Havering's arrangement. DA would consider an appropriate response from the LA to the consultation.

4. Centrally Retained DSG – 2020-21

There were a number of areas of funding that has been included in a fourth funding block called the Central School Services Block that required Schools Forum approval to be retained centrally.

The following amounts were agreed:

School Admissions	£496,690
Servicing of the Schools Forum	£43,250
Infant Class Sizes	£50,000
School Partnership Funding	£200,000
LA responsibilities (ex ESG)	£569,870 (to seek further approval if a higher amount is available)

The following areas also required approval but the amounts to be requested were not yet known.

Central retention from the Early Years Block

Pupil growth/falling rolls funding

The cost of the national copyright licencing arrangements did not need Schools Forum approval but would also need to be funded from the CSSB. The amount would be announced by the DfE at a later date.

5. De-delegation of funding for central services to LA Maintained Schools

De-delegation was not permitted for academies or special schools.

De-delegation for LA maintained schools was agreed as follows for 2020-21:

Contingency to support schools in financial difficulty	£11 per pupil
EAL Service	£38 per EAL pupil
FSM eligibility	£9 per FSM pupil
Central insurance	£18 per pupil
Maternity Insurance	£26 per pupil
Trade Union facility Time	£2.50 per pupil
LA responsibilities for LA maintained school only	£17.90 per pupil

Further clarification was required on access to the Attendance and Behaviour Service in relation to the financial contributions from schools.

6. Special school funding 2019-20

Special school funding had not been reviewed since 2013-14 and schools were in deficit. Schools were funded according to a matrix of learning need and this had also been reviewed to reflect the increased complexity of need.

The number of funding levels within the matrix had been reduced and the new rates of funding agreed as follows with effect from 1st September 2019.

Level A	£36,000
Level B	£22,000
Level C (i)	£10,000
Level C (ii)	£6,667

Level A+ would be through bespoke arrangements for the highly complex needs children that would otherwise be placed in more expensive out of borough provision.

This would lead to an approximate increase in expenditure of £1.2m in a full year from the High Needs budget and would be built into the forecasting.

7. Elective Home Education

It was agreed that as with pupils permanently excluded from school and managed moves, funding would be transferred between schools for pupils who leave school to be home educated and encouraged back into school. This would provide some funding to support the schools who take in pupils who are returning from home education.

8. Financial Transparency of L:A Maintained Schools

The DfE had issued a consultation document on implementing some of the more robust financial assurance arrangements currently in place in academies to LA Maintained schools.

These included mandatory 3 year budgeting and the publication of salary information and CFR statements on school websites. The LA and schools were not in favour of many of the proposals as they would place additional pressure on already limited resources and would reveal at an individual school level, financial information which for academies were at MAT Trust level. DA would reflect this in response to the consultation.