CABINET

14 December 2021

Title: Dedicated Schools Budget and Schools Funding Formula 2022/23

Report of the Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement and the Cabinet Member and Champion for Disabled People

Open Report	For Decision		
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: Yes		
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Summary

This report provides an update on the National Funding Formula for Schools consultation and reforms and their likely impact on Barking and Dagenham. This report also sets out the Dedicated Schools Budget (DSB) strategy for 2022/23 and the principles that we plan to use for the Local Funding Formula for Schools following discussion and consultations with Schools Forum. The report also considers the implications for the Council of the wider Education funding changes and the risks and opportunities that arise as a result.

Recommendation(s)

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Note the update on the latest Education Funding Changes and, in particular, the move towards a fixed National Funding Formula;
- (ii) Note the indicative allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant for 2022/23 as set out in section 3 of the report;
- (iii) Approve the 2022/23 strategy for the Schools Block as set out in section 4 of the report;
- (iv) Approve, subject to consultation with schools and (vi) below, the proposed principles for the design of the Local Schools Funding Formula as set out in section 4 of the report;
- (v) Note the allocated funding and strategy for the High Needs Block as set out in section 5 of the report;

- (vi) Note the allocated funding and strategy for the Central Services Block as set out in section 6 of the report; and
- (vii) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Children and Adults, in consultation with the Finance Director, Schools Forum and the Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement, to approve the final 2022/23 school funding formula for submission to the Education and Schools Funding Agency.

Reason(s)

The Dedicated Schools Budget is part of the Council's overall budget and Local Authorities are required to develop and maintain a Local Funding Formula to distribute funding to schools. Local authorities will continue to have local flexibility until 2022/23, but DfE will tighten the rules for local formula from 2023/24 so that these gradually align with NFF allocations over time.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Most Education funding is provided by the Department of Education in the form of a specific ringfenced grant to Local Authorities known as the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This was first introduced in 2006 and at that time was based on the allocations within Local Authority budgets for Education. Since that time the direction of travel has been towards replacing this with a formula-based allocation with funding based on population and indicators of additional needs such as deprivation and poor attainment.
- 1.2 The DSG is made up of the following four blocks: Schools Block, Early Years Block, High Needs Block & Central Services Block. These blocks fund different components of the 3-16 Education system: the Schools Block makes up most of the allocations to individual schools budget, the High Needs Block which provides funding for Special Schools, Alternative Provision, and Additional support for students with Special Education Needs in mainstream schools, the Early Years block provides funding for two, three and four year old education and the Central Block funds various central services such as Admissions and School Improvement. More information is given on each of the blocks in the report.
- 1.3 The ultimate intention of Department of Education policy is that Schools Block funding will be passported straight to schools based on the National Funding Formula (NFF). However, there is a transitional period before the NFF hard formula is implemented by the government.

1.4 Update on National Funding Formula (NFF)

1.4.1 The Government has been consulting on a Fair Funding for All and they have set out proposals on moving towards a hard NFF which they believe is "fair, simple and transparent, and efficient and predictable". The consultation closed on 30 September 2021. There is no fixed date for the hard NFF to be in place. Local authorities will continue to have local flexibility until 2022/23, but DfE will tighten the rules for local formula from 2023/24 so that these gradually align with NFF allocations over time.

- 1.4.2 Convergence towards the NFF formula means that local discretions are being gradually phased out. In LBBD, the main impact of this transition to NFF would be to gradually shift funding from primaries to secondaries from 35% more funding on average for secondary schools to 45% more.
- 1.4.3 The ultimate aim is for all Schools funding to be distributed by the NFF without further adjustment by the local authority. Schools would be protected from per pupil funding losses during the transition period. Schools Forum will only retain local discretionary powers over Central School Services Block, and Early Years funding is already largely on a formula basis. Changes to the high needs funding arrangements will be consulted at a later stage in light of the proposal in the SEND review.
- 1.4.4 Even though the DfE are still only encouraging rather than mandating existing schools to become academies they have made it clear that their ambition is for all schools to be part of a multi-academy trust (MAT) and the direction of travel for Education funding is in line with a reduced role for the Local Authority. The implementation of the hard formula is a step in that direction as is the reduction in the Central Services block funding. It should be noted that a significant number of schools buy back into local authority services ranging from arboriculture to payroll services. This generated around £3m in trading income for the local authority in 2021/22. Although some academies do continue to buy into LA services, those in MATs are less likely to do so as they receive these services through the central trust or through a collective procurement arrangement.
- 1.4.5 The move to a formula-based allocation has resulted in changes to the overall distribution of funding between geographical areas with a mixed impact for LBBD. When the Early Years formula was introduced, this resulted in an initial increase for LBBD and transition to a formula for High Needs has resulted in improved funding for the LBBD High Needs Block which had previously been severely underfunded. However, this remains an area of financial pressure at the local and national level.
- 1.4.6 On the other hand, for the Schools Block the National Funding Formula is less favourable to London and in general terms the full implementation of the formula will result in a shift of funding away from the capital over time. In 2022/23, London boroughs will see the:
 - lowest percentage increase in DSG funding of 2.9% compared with 4% nationally.
 - lowest percentage increase in Schools Block funding of 1.7% compared with 2.9% nationally.
 - lowest percentage increase in High Needs Block funding of 8.2% compared with 8.8% nationally although LBBD will receive 10.1% increase.
- 1.4.7 Schools Block funding for Barking and Dagenham will be similarly constrained. Many of the LBBD schools currently are on the funding floor and will receive only the lowest national increase of 2%. This 2% uplift represents real terms cuts at a time when schools are facing cost increases on many fronts. In broad terms, as the formula does not work in favour of LBBD schools, many will continue to see minimal increases for the foreseeable future. Where schools also see falling pupil numbers,

as is the case for some primaries, then their total budget will reduce and cost efficiencies and savings will need to be identified.

2. The Dedicated Schools Grant

2.1 As described above, the Dedicated Schools Grant is made up of four blocks which fund different aspects of the Education system. The table below shows the current year (2021/22) allocations and the indicative funding for 2022-23. The net allocation for the current financial year is £247.463m, which is subject to minor changes during the course of the year.

Block	2021/22 Allocation	2022/23	Movemen t +Fav / (Unfav.)	Mov't
		Provision al Alloc.		
	£000s	£000s	£000s	%
Pupil No	39,847	39,847		
School NFF Allocations	232,350	237,305	4,955	2.1%
Premises (lagged)	9,992	9,461	-531	-5.3%
Growth Fund (22/23 is estimate)	1,939	2,000	61	3.2%
Schools Block	244,281	248,766	4,485	1.8%
High Needs Block	42,557	46,861	4,304	10.10%
Central Sch. Services Block - On-going	1,619	1,630	11	0.7
Central Sch. Services Block - Historic	741	592	-149	-20.1
Early Years (Provisional)	23,205	23,205	0	0
Total Funding	312,403	321,054	8,651	2.8%

- 2.2 The 2022-23 indicative allocations were published by the DfE in July. They are based on the pupil numbers census data from October 2020 and the final allocations will differ as they will be based on the October 2021 numbers. It should also be noted that the numbers are given prior to "Recoupment" and so include funding for academies and free schools within our Council area.
- 2.3 As the table shows the main Schools Block has only increased by the minimal level of 2%. The Premises elements are based on lagged actual costs and can vary from year to year but the impact is neutral over time. The growth fund is estimated and will be updated when the final grant allocations are published in December.
- 2.4 There has been another considerable increase in the High Needs Block which reflects both increased national funding and the continued movement towards the formula allocation for LBBD.
- 2.5 The Central Block continues to reduce in line with the Council's intention to standardise and reduce central LA spending on Education.

- 2.6 The Early Years allocation has not yet been published but the current amount is shown for information. It is expected that when the final allocation is published it will include a small inflationary uplift which will be passed through to providers in line with guidance. Funding is allocated based on levels of activity. However there has been considerable instability in the level of take up during the Covid period which has led to greater uncertainty.
- 2.7 Further information about the individual blocks is given below.

3. Schools Block

- 3.1. The provisional DSG allocations for 2022/23 were published by DfE in July 2021. The NFF calculations for 2022-23 are based on school and pupil characteristics data from previous years. The Core National formula funding factors include the basic age weighted pupil unit (AWPU) amount, deprivation, low prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL), mobility, and lump sum factors. The area cost adjustment (ACA) is then applied to NFF rates to take account of the differences in local labour market costs between different geographical areas.
- 3.2. The main formula for 2022-23 is similar to 2021-22. Changes in respect of 2022/23 NFF calculations affecting Barking and Dagenham schools are as follows:
 - In broad terms, the 2022/23 units of funding have been calculated based on October 2020, or earlier data where it is missing due to the pandemic.
 - The count of children who have ever received Free School Meals in the past six years (FSM E6) is now based on October 2020 census rather than the preceding January census (reducing lag by 9 months).
 - Data used for Low Prior Attainment is based on the 2019 early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) and key stage 2 (KS2) tests as a proxy because of cancellation of 2020 tests due to the pandemic.
 - Where a pupil who was not at the school in the January census has an entry date recorded in the October 2020 census of between the date of the January 2020 census and the date of the (cancelled) May 2020 census, that pupil attracts mobility funding (as long as the school itself was open before the January 2020 census)
- 3.3. The following NFF cash uplifts have been applied by the DfE in their calculations:
 - A 3% increase to the main pupil led factors ie basic entitlement (AWPU), free school meals ever 6 (FSM6), income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI), lower prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL) and the lump sum.
 - 2% uplift to the floor, the minimum per pupil levels and free school meals (FSM).
 - 0% on the premises factors, except for PFI which has increased by RPIX.
- 3.4. However, the basic entitlement unit funding is still lower than the previous LBBD rate (as is the case in most of London.) This means that the simple application of the formula would result in a shift of funding away from London on average. In order that

no school sees a reduction in per pupil funding the DfE have provided two forms of funding protection:

- (a) A minimum funding amount per pupil. All LBBD schools already receive more than this.
- (b) A "Funding floor" which provides a minimum gain of 2% per pupil above their 2021-22 baseline pupil-led funding. As almost all schools especially Primary schools are now on the funding floor they have therefore received the minimum 2% uplift.
- 3.5. The DfE funding model calculates values for all schools based on the previous October census data and then derives an average unit of funding per pupil. The final December 2021 allocations are then calculated using these averages for the updated pupil numbers. If there are significant changes in pupil characteristics between the two sets of pupil data then this has to be managed at a local level.

Table - Primary and Secondary Unit of Funding for 2022/23

	2021-22	2022-23	Cash Movement	% Movement
Primary Unit of Funding (PUF)	5,212	5,314	102	1.96%
Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF)	6,851	7,012	161	2.35%

- 3.6. The notional school level allocations have also been published on the DfE website. The final allocations to schools would be different because:
 - (a) notional allocations are based on October 2020 pupil profile data whereas actual allocations are to be based on October 2021 pupil profile data.
 - (b) actual rates applied locally may differ in order to meet local priorities, such as managing growth, falling rolls, and achieving the required primary secondary ratio or movements between blocks.

4. Provisional Funding Model for 2022/23

- 4.1 In previous years there have been pressures on the Growth Fund, needed to finance the opening of new classes, which has required some funding to be top-sliced from the Schools Block. However local demographic growth is levelling off to some extent and provisional modelling appears to indicate that there is no requirement to top up the growth allocation from the Schools Formula funding for 2022/3. This means that the whole schools block is available to be passed on to schools via the Local Funding Formula.
- 4.2 As explained above the DfE have confirmed their intention to move towards a hard National Formula. However, for 2022/23 Local Authorities still have the ability to set a local formula in consultation with their Schools Forum. This does have to be within strict parameters set by the DfE.
- 4.3 During the previous transition period, in consultation with the Schools Forum and local schools, LBBD has made significant movements towards the National Funding Formula, using the national factors for all the pupil led additional needs factors and the per school lump sum while retaining our own split site funding factor. We have

however adjusted the basic entitlement unit (AWPU) to slightly weight funding back towards the primary sector. The national funding formula tends to result in secondaries receiving 42% more funding on average (i.e. ratio of 1:1.42) and we have taken the local decision to shift this back to 35% (ratio of 1:1.35). This policy has been consistently supported by the Schools Forum.

- 4.4 In considering the local formula for 2022-23 we have produced three models of the local funding formula for consideration by Local Schools.
 - (a) Model A we have replicated the NFF using the full rates for all factors
 - (b) Model B mirroring at 10% i.e., removing 10% of the existing differences between local and NFF rates for AWPU. (All other rates are already at NFF levels.)
 - (c) Model C adjusting AWPU rates so that the existing primary secondary ratio of 1:1.35 is maintained (i.e., the formula is flexed locally)
- 4.5 The table below shows how these models compare.

	Model A	Model B	Model C
Description	Full National Funding Formula	Mirroring – 10% transition towards NFF	Local Model with AWPU adjusted
Key Features and impact on schools	Primary AWPU less than 21/22 Secondary AWPU higher Large number of schools below MFG - £7.683m funding used as protection	All AWPU rates higher than 21/22 Moves towards NFF at minimum rate proposed by DfE £1.5m MFG protection needed	Primary, KS3 and KS4 AWPUs would increase by £76, £115, and £137 respectively compared to 2021/22 Moving towards NFF more quickly than Model B £1.717m MFG protection needed
Affordability	Yes	No – exceeds grant by £0.671m	Yes
Primary/Secondary Ratio	1:1.42	1:1.36	1:1.35
Conclusion	Offers less protection to primary sector although differences are only small	Not affordable – AWPU rates too high	Preferred model – affordable, meets DfE requirements while protecting primary sector

- 4.6 The provisional school levels allocations under each of the models are set out in Appendix 2 to this report. All options illustrate cash increases. Variations in funding between 2021/22 and other models presented for 22/23 are entirely driven by changes in the formula unit rates. Numbers on Roll (NOR) and pupil profile are the same in the 21/22 model. However, movement in funding in the final model will be determined by changes in NOR, unit rates, and changes in pupil profile data.
- 4.7 As the table shows because of the large number of schools receiving MFG/floor protection the final differences between the models are relatively small at the individual school level. This means that the number of pupils will have the largest

impact on determining the final allocations. The provisional data shows a large number of primary schools will be seeing significant drop in pupil numbers. This will translate into marked reductions in delegated budgets and may impact on other funding allocations such as Pupil Premium. Changes in pupil profile data (e.g. number of pupils receiving FSMs) is also key driver of funding allocations, and the impact of the pandemic could be to increase the levels of deprivation. This may only have limited impact on mitigating the impact of reductions in pupils. Therefore, schools should have clear plans in place to manage this period of funding turbulence.

- 4.8 Model B is not viable as the total cost exceeds DSG cash envelope. The recommended option is Option C. This option was also approved by Schools Forum. This option is preferred for the following reasons:
 - It is affordable and also distributes the total amount of funding
 - It maintains our long-standing local policy of supporting the primary sector by keeping the relative funding between the sectors at 1:1.35 (or as close to it as possible.)
- 4.9 A consultation document was sent to all maintained and academy schools regarding the funding models and options. There were 31 responses with the majority in support of the Local Authority proposals. In particular, 29 of the responses preferred Model C the Local variation of the formula.
- 4.10 Cabinet is asked to approve the following principles to be used in setting the Local funding formula:
 - To use the NFF adjusted for Area Cost Adjustment except for the local Split Sites factor and AWPU
 - To adjust the AWPU rates to ensure all funding is used and to maintain a funding ratio of 1:1.35 or as close as possible to that
 - To not use capping and scaling and to use a 2% Minimum Funding Guarantee.
- 4.11 The indicative factors are set out in Appendix 1. The final AWPU figures may vary but this will be based on the principles outlined above.
- 4.12 As noted above, after a period of high demographic increases there has been a levelling in the need for growth funding. The authority has £1m of brought forward growth funding contingency held in the DSG reserve which is not now expected to be required. It is proposed to release half of this amount from the reserve for reallocation back to Schools during 2022-23. We are currently consulting with schools as to how this should best be used. The proposals are:
 - To provide targeted support to schools with falling pupil numbers
 - To retain as a growth contingency
 - To use to support the High Needs Block
 - To use to provide additional MFG protection
- 4.13 The Consultation responses showed strongest support for the first and third option i.e., for additional High Needs Funding (12) and support for Schools with Falling Rolls (14). As set out below we are providing additional support from reserves for High Needs and so we are proposing to use this £0.5m drawdown to provide support for Schools with Falling Needs. This will be a targeted support fund outside of the main

funding formula. Fair and objective criteria for distribution with be agreed with the Schools Forum. A summary of the consultation responses is set out at Appendix 3.

5. High Needs Block

- 5.1 The budget for 2021/22 is £38.556m (after recoupment ie net of payments to Special Academies) and including The Teacher Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG). This was an increase of 11.6% from the previous year. After many years of historic underfunding LBBD is currently seeing large year on year increases in High Needs budget as a result of the move to a fairer distribution of funding. However, needs and costs are also rising and this does continue to be an area of pressure requiring strict management.
- 5.2 The 2020/21 end of year outturn position for the high needs block was an underspend of £1.636m. This is in large part the result of the strong culture of inclusion and strict financial management in this area but may also reflect some level of needs not being identified during a year of exceptional disruption. Schools are now reporting large increases in the needs of children and an overspend is forecast for this year. The table below shows the current year budget and forecast. The Gatekeeping/Contingency line refers to in year growth in expenditure including £1.3m of additional payments to support exceptional levels of needs in primary schools.

	2020/21 Outturn	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Outturn Forecast	Variance +Deficit / (Surplus)
Alternative Provision	3,399,759	3,475,830	3,184,510	(291,320)
ARP Funding	6,093,890	8,259,360	8,094,873	(164,487)
DSG – HN Education Inclusion.	1,494,256	1,542,659	1,448,776	(93,875)
Top-ups (inc. OB & NMSS)	6,264,504	7,863,410	7,441,379	(422,031)
High Needs Top Ups – Post 16	1,801,210	1,755,760	2,063,771	308,011
SEN Panel Top Ups	1,522,596	1,350,000	2,000,000	650,000
LACHES, Language Support	360,490	344,210	341,581	(2,629)
Initiatives	147,608	676,750	676,750	0
Special School Funding	10,951,784	12,279,360	12,360,800	81,440
Early Years & Integrated Youth	342,143	568,410	568,410	0
Total	32,378,240	38,115,749	38,180,850	65,101
Surplus & Gatekeeping / Contingency	1,636,435	440,365	1,725,924	1,285,559
Total Budget	34,014,675	38,556,114	39,651,774	1,350,660

5.3 In 2022/23, we are expecting another significant increase in High Needs Funding of around 10%. However if the current upward trend in need continues, this will still be an area of pressure. The Local Authority works closely with Local Schools through the Forum and the High Needs Working Party to devise strategies to manage and reduce demand and will set the High Needs Budget in collaboration with them once the final allocations are published.

5.4 In particular the working group have developed a model for both primary and secondary school notional budgets of suggested expenditure earmarked from the notional budget in support of Low Cost High Incident (LCHI) children. This is to ensure that schools have the understanding and able to identify eligible costs relating to notional SEN funding.

6. Central Services to Schools Block

- 6.1 The Central School Services Block allocates funding to LAs for ongoing and historic responsibilities.
- Funding for on-going responsibilities is based on a pupil-led formula. The formula uses two factors: a basic per-pupil factor for all pupils (£32.74), and a deprivation per-pupil factor based on FSM E6 count (£14.54) uplifted by General Labour Market Area Cost Adjustment of 10.813%.
- 6.3 The CSSB on-going budget in 2021/22 is funding responsibilities held for all schools which includes; administration of school admission service (£636k), servicing of Schools forum (£60k), DfE copy right licences agreement (£180k) and statutory and regulatory duties (£743k) performed under School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2021.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Movement
On-going responsibilities	1,439	1,620	1,630	10
Historic	925	740	592	(148)
Total	2,364	2,360	2,222	(138)

6.4 In 2020/21, CSSB historic commitments funding is being reduced 20% year-on-year. The annual reductions, set out in the table below, will impact on services available to schools.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
School improvement	108b	86	69	55	44	35.2
Schools' estates	150	120	96	77	61.6	49.28
School games organiser	50	40	32	26	20.8	16.64
Trewern outdoor education	209	167	133	106	84.8	67.84
Community music service	310	248	198	158	126.4	101.12
Advisory teachers	330	264	212	170	136	108.8
Total (historic)	1,157	925	740	592	474	379

- 6.5 In 2021/22 total budget requirement for these historic duties is £740k. By 2022/23, these services will need to make aggregate savings of £565k compared to 2019/20.
- 6.6 The following is a summary of how the services funded from the CSSB historical grant are being remodelled to mitigate the reductions:
 - School improvement this is being offset by School Improvement contingency budget and reserves while we develop a longer term funding agreement with Schools Forum.

- Advisory Teachers this is part of the BDSIP contract and the savings have been passed on through a reduction to the contract price.
- Community Music Service the service has remodelled the delivery by entering into a service level agreement with schools.
- Trewern outdoor education the centre is implementing a basket of measures including increase term time residential bookings for 52 weeks, increase holiday youth group bookings, use of external public health grant for outdoor physical activities, glamping pods and private hire and use of reserves if required.
- School Games Organiser the reduction in DSG funding is being replaced by other grants such as public health grants, Young Londoners Fund, Inspiring Futures etc.
- Schools Estates the reduction is being mitigated by capitalisation of eligible staffing costs of the team.
- 6.7 The Department is also consulting on the withdrawal of an additional School Improvement Grant that supports Local Authority statutory work in this area and proposing that this should be recovered from Local Maintained schools by dedelegation. This will create a further financial burden on our schools and puts at risk an important support for Education. A copy of our response to this consultation is attached at Appendix 4.

7. Financial Implications

Implications completed by Katherine Heffernan, Head of Service Finance

7.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ringfenced grant provided by the Department of Education. The anticipated allocation for 2022/23 will be confirmed once October 2021 pupil census data is finalised but is expected to be approximately £321m (including funding for Academies which does not come to the LA). Any further significant implications will be reported to Cabinet as part of the final budget report in February.

8. Legal Implications

Implications completed by Implications completed by: Dr Paul Feild, Senior Governance Lawyer

- 8.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant is payable to local authorities under section 14 of the Education Act 2002. It is as set out in this report a 'ring fenced grant' that is to say it must be solely spent on the grant conditions and guidance as been prepared by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to assist local authorities in the operation of the dedicated schools grant (DSG).
- 8.2 Each year new regulations are issued as they only cover one year the current being School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020. In 2022-23, The Council will continue to determine schools' budget allocations at a local level, through a local funding formula, though in future years to come this will change to a national funding formula.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1 **Risk Management -** There is a risk that for some schools the funding available may not fully meet their expected operating costs and financial pressures. The Minimum Funding guarantee that limits any reduction in funding to 2%% per pupil offers some mitigation as it provides a smoothing mechanism preventing sudden funding changes. The Council will continue to work with Schools and others to ensure there are high standards of financial management and control to meet these funding challenges.
- 9.2 **Staffing Issues –** The current allocations were published in July before the increases in National Insurance were announced. In previous years additional grant funding has been provided for large increases in teachers' pay, pensions or other employment costs and it is expected this will be the case but the details are yet to be confirmed. Aside from this, many schools in Barking and Dagenham will receive only a small uplift in their main funding and where schools are also experiencing changes in roll numbers there may be budget pressures which impact on staffing plans. The Authority has taken some steps to support schools through the creation of a falling rolls fund and access to loans via the Financial Difficulties Fund. Schools are encouraged to work with HR in order to mitigate the impact on individual staff members and to avoid compulsory redundancies as far as possible.
- 9.3 **Corporate Policy and Equality Impact –** The National Funding Formula provides additional funding to meet the educational and safeguarding needs of students with specific characteristics that indicate higher levels of need and vulnerability such as deprivation, lower prior attainment and speaking English as an additional language. This is reflected in the Local Formula
- 9.4 **Safeguarding Adults and Children -** The additional needs factors and the pupil premium provide targeted support for looked after children and those entitled to free school meals. The High Needs block is available to provide support for students with complex educational needs and disabilities.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- LBBD Schools Forum reports can be found here: https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/schools-forum
- DSG Operational Guidance <u>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/902183/Schools_operational_guide_2021_to_2022_1.pdf</u>

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – The preferred Local Funding formula model for 2022-23

Appendix 2 – Illustrative impact of the LFF models for schools based on current pupil numbers.

Appendix 3 – Consultation Responses

Appendix 4 – LBBD response to the Government Consultation on School Improvement.