

	<p>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>16 January 2018</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Annual Report on School Funding in Barnet for 2018-19</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Reuben Thompstone</p>
<p>Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: Indicative school funding allocations</p>
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Summary

This annual report on school funding arrangements updates the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on the government's progress towards the implementation of the national funding formula for schools. The report updates the committee on consultation with schools on the Barnet School Funding Formula for 2018-19 and asks the committee to approve the Schools Forum's recommendation that the National Funding Formula is phased in over three years.

The report sets out the response from the Government on lobbying efforts undertaken by London Councils to ensure no Barnet school loses out under the new National Funding Formula. It also explains why the additional funding of 0.5% per pupil does not translate into automatic increases for all pupils because of the need to budget for pupil growth funding and describes representations made by the council to the DfE about funding for growth in pupil numbers and the DfE's response

Finally the report describes the main features of Barnet's Schools Budget for 2018-19 and seeks approval for the Authority Proforma Tool submission (which sets out the funding formula for Barnet schools and thus indicates the level of funding under the formula for each school). This includes a Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0%, which means that no school will receive less money per pupil in 2018-19 than they did in 2017-18, while any schools gaining from the phased introduction of the National Funding Formula will have their gains capped at +0.24% per pupil.

Recommendations

That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee:

- 1. Note the annual report on school funding in Barnet including:**
 - **The National Funding Formula for schools and proposals for the Barnet School Funding Formula for 2018-19 and**
 - **The draft Barnet Schools Budget for 2018-19**
- 2. Approve the adoption and implementation of Option 2 from the consultation with schools on the Barnet School Funding Formula for 2018-19 – the National Funding Formula with additional protection.**
- 3. Approve the submission of the Authority Proforma Tool (which specifies the authority's funding formula for schools) on the basis of Option 2 from the consultation with schools on the Barnet School Funding Formula for 2018-19 – the National Funding Formula with additional protection and with the provision for a Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0%, which means that no school will receive less money per pupil in 2018-19 than they did in 2017-18, while any schools gaining from the phased introduction of the National Funding Formula will have their gains capped at +0.24% per pupil.**
- 4. Note that the overall Schools Budget will be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its next meeting on 13th February 2018.**

1 WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 At its meeting on 9th March 2015, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee agreed to receive an annual report on the local funding formulae for schools and early years and other financial issues affecting early years and schools.

- 1.2 On 14th June 2016, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee considered the Government's intention to move to a national funding formula. It also delegated to the Commissioning Director, Children and Young People authority to consult schools on any changes to Barnet's funding formula for 2017/18 and to submit Barnet's funding formula to central government.
- 1.3 On 21 February 2017, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee received and noted the annual report on school funding for 2017-18. This included updates on the government's progress towards the implementation of the national funding formulae for schools. The report also set out the main features of Barnet's schools budget for 2017-18 and discussed the implications of the government's removal of the Education Services Grant to local authorities.
- 1.4 On 15 November 2017, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee instructed the Strategic Director for Children and Young People to prepare a report for the January meeting with:
- An update on the funding for Barnet Schools, and
 - Any response from the Government on lobbying efforts undertaken by London Councils to ensure no Barnet school loses out under the new National Funding Formula.
- 1.5 This report updates the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on:
- a) The National Funding Formula for schools and consultation on the Barnet School Funding Formula for 2018-19
 - b) Lobbying efforts undertaken by London Councils in respect of school funding and by the council in respect of funding pupil growth and the DfE's response on both issues.
 - c) The Barnet Schools Budget for 2018-19
- a) The National Funding Formula for schools and consultation on the Barnet School Funding Formula for 2018-19**
- 1.6 Following consultation, the Department for Education (DfE) published its detailed proposals for the National Funding Formula in September 2017 alongside provisional budget allocations to local authorities for 2018-19. Details of the National Funding Formula can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-funding-formula-for-schools-and-high-needs>
- 1.7 All schools will be funded in accordance with the National Funding Formula (NFF) from 2020-21. In the two years before that, the 'Schools Block' funding allocations to local authorities will be calculated by aggregating the amount of funding for all

primary and secondary schools (maintained schools and Academies) as calculated for each school under the national formula.

- 1.8 However, local authorities are not required to implement the national formula during this period. They may do so, or they are free to adopt a transitional funding formula for each of the next two years, in consultation with their Schools Forum and schools, subject to certain parameters. One of these is that there must be a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) that no individual school will lose funding of more than minus 1.5% per pupil. The current operational guidance now allows local authorities to set a MFG of between minus 1.5% to plus 0.5%. This gives local authorities the freedom to offer higher levels of protection locally.
- 1.9 The Barnet Schools Forum, which is made up of governor and headteacher representatives from all types and phases of state-funded schools in Barnet, met on 12 October and discussed options for the Barnet School Funding Formula for 2018-19.
- 1.10 The Schools Forum agreed that the existing Barnet formula should not be proposed as an option because it would mean that there would be no move towards addressing what is deemed by the DfE to be current underfunding for some schools and because it would create too much of a cliff-edge for any schools that are losers when the National Funding Formula is implemented in full.
- 1.11 The Schools Forum agreed with the council's proposal to consult schools on the following two options:
 - Option 1 – National Funding Formula – implement the NFF in full in 2018-19
 - Option 2 - National Funding Formula with additional protection – the phased introduction of the NFF between 2018-19 and 2020-21.
- 1.12 The modelling of both options was based on October 2016 census data and the consultation document made clear that school-level figures were only indicative and final figures would be calculated once October 2017 census data is confirmed and actual 2018-19 DfE funding allocations are confirmed. This was expected to be in December 2017.
- 1.13 Under Option 1 the MFG protection would be -1.5%. Under Option 2 the consultation indicated this would be increased to about -0.5% per pupil. So the maximum loss of funding per pupil would be 0.5% instead 1.5%. In order to offset the additional cost of a higher level of protection for losers, there would be a cap on gains for winners. The council would aim to set this at around 0.5% if possible. The actual levels of protection (MFG) and caps would depend on the final allocation of budgets by the Department for Education, taking account of school census data from October 2017 and thus the MFG protection and caps could be more than or less than -0.5% and +0.5% respectively. Once final budget allocations were announced by the DfE, it was proposed to adjust the protection and ceilings so that the schools block is fully allocated.
- 1.14 Of the 98 responses received, 80 were from Primary schools (maintained and academy/ free), 16 from Secondary schools (maintained and academy/ free), and 2 from all-through schools. 47 responses were from Headteachers or Principals,

40 from Governors and 11 from other representatives such as Bursars or School Business/ Finance managers.

1.15 Of those that completed the question on which option should be implemented, 86 (87.75%) agreed with the proposal to implement option 2, the National Funding Formula with transitional protection so that turbulence to schools could be minimised during the transition period. The comments supporting this option included that it seemed fairer and more manageable, allowed more time to plan budgets and would give time for schools to adjust before full implementation of the National Funding Formula in 2020-21

1.16 The Schools Forum met on 7th December and considered the outcome of the consultation. The Forum agreed to recommend to the council the adoption and implementation of Option 2 – the National Funding Formula with additional protection.

b) Lobbying efforts undertaken by London Councils in respect of school funding and by the council in respect of funding pupil growth and the DfE's response on both issues.

1.17 In recent months, London Councils, which represents the 32 London Boroughs, has made representations to the government in relation to its plans to introduce a National Funding Formula for schools. They pointed out that 70 per cent of schools in the capital will face budget cuts and London would also see larger reductions in funding than anywhere else in the country. They advocated additional investment to ensure that no school in the country experiences a cash cut as a result of the new funding formula.

1.18 In July 2017 the government announced an additional £1.3billion for schools funding, during the transition to the National Funding Formula allowing an increase in the basic amount of funding for all pupils. In September 2017 the government made a further announcement confirming the introduction of the National Funding Formula (NFF) from 2020-21 and announcing that the increased funding would mean that under the NFF every school will attract at least 0.5% more per pupil in 2018-19, and a further 0.5% per pupil in 2019-20, compared to the 2017-18 per pupil baseline, but that decisions on local distribution would be taken by local authorities during the two transitional years ahead of the introduction of the hard formula in 2020-21.

1.19 Outside the consultation with Barnet schools on the options for a local school funding formula for 2018-19, the council received a number of representations about the application of the increase in DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) funding allocations to local authorities, which is equivalent to an extra 0.5% per pupil for all schools.

1.20 As indicated in the government's announcement in September, the DfE is increasing funding to local authorities for 2018-19 by 0.5% per pupil compared to the amounts schools received in 2017-18. The result is a provisional increase in funding for Barnet by £1.94m next year. The DfE indicative allocation to Barnet

includes £813,257 for growth funding, which is the amount that is funded from the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant this year (2017-18).

- 1.21 Total growth funding for Barnet schools in 2017-18 was £3.9m. Whilst DSG funding covered £813,257 of this, the council funded the remaining £3.1m from DSG reserves. DSG reserves are funds that have accumulated as a result of careful budget management by the council and use of these reserves until this year has been the council's way of ensuring that the growth in school places does not result in top-slicing of the budgets allocated to schools.
- 1.22 Without these reserves, funding for schools would have been £3.1m lower than the actual funding distributed through the funding formula in 2017-18. The £1.94m increase in funding for 18-19 would then have applied to this lower base and, whilst it would mean school budgets increasing by at least 0.5% per pupil, the actual amount schools would then have in 18-19 would be no more than the amounts indicated in the consultation on the school funding formula.
- 1.23 The council is no longer able to make up the growth funding from DSG reserves, because the reserves have gradually been used up in the last few years (largely to pay for growth funding) and because of growing pressures on the High Needs budget as a result of demographic growth and the impact of the government's SEN reforms (in particular extending funding for pupils with special educational needs from 0 to 18 year olds to 0 to 25 year olds).
- 1.24 The growth funding has to be the first call on the Schools' Block funding allocated by the DfE, which reduces the amount available through the school funding formula.
- 1.25 For all these reasons, the £1.94m allocation does not automatically result in a 0.5% per pupil funding increase and the funding per pupil for all schools will be lower in 2018-19 than it would be if the DSG allocations included the actual cost of growth funding.
- 1.26 The growth funding includes two elements of funding:
 - Funding for the one-off costs of setting up new schools, expanding existing schools and temporary 'bulge' classes
 - Funding for the additional pupils entering expanded provision in September ahead of the 'lagged' Schools Block allocation that is received from the following April.
- 1.27 The figures used in the consultation on the funding formula for 2018-19 were provisional figures based on the provisional DSG allocations from the DfE. They also assumed the growth funding in 2018-19 would need to be at the same level as in 2017-18.
- 1.28 The DfE has acknowledged that the current mechanism for calculating growth funding is not sufficiently robust and that further work will be undertaken to rectify this in future. In the meantime, until the DfE takes on full responsibility for school funding in 2020-21, local authorities have to put in place transitional funding arrangements that cover the actual costs of growth.

- 1.29 The council nonetheless made representations to the government about the fact that the provisional DSG allocation for Barnet did not cover the full cost of growth funding and thus required a top-slice to cover the shortfall in growth funding from the Schools Block which would thus deny all schools a share of the additional funding that was intended to provide a minimum increase of 0.5% per pupil for each school.
- 1.30 The DfE's response confirmed that pupil growth that had been funded from DSG reserves was not included in the baselines for allocating DSG funding for 2018-19. They pointed out that the decision to spend from reserves means that schools in Barnet have correspondingly higher baseline funding than if this funding had been top-sliced from schools in 2017-18. They also pointed out that baseline per pupil funding in Barnet is £4,933 per pupil, significantly higher than the national average of £4,499.
- 1.31 As well as lobbying the government in respect of the National Funding Formula, London Councils have made strong representations about the pressures facing London local authorities in relation to High Needs Funding, leading to a significant funding gap in many local authorities. Barnet is facing similar pressures as a result of demographic pressures and the government's SEN reforms (in particular extending funding for pupils with special educational needs from 0 to 18 year olds to 0 to 25 year olds).

c) The Barnet Schools Budget for 2018-19

- 1.32 The Schools Budget is mainly funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). For 2018-19 this is made up of four notional funding blocks:
- Schools Block
 - Early Years Block
 - High Needs Block
 - Central Block.
- 1.33 The DSG does not directly impact on the council's revenue budget position as it is provided as a specific and ring-fenced grant which is used in support of the local authority's Schools Budget. The Schools block primarily funds mainstream schools. The Early Years block primarily funds early education provision in private, voluntary and independent settings, maintained nursery schools and school nursery classes and the education of two year olds from households with low incomes. The High Needs block primarily funds pupils with high needs, which are usually pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) who have Statements for SEN or Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) or pupils that are in alternative provision (such as Pupil Referral Units). The DfE has created a new Central Schools Services DSG Block (CSSB) for 2018-19 from existing 2017/18 DSG funding. The CSSB covers funding for historic commitments and funding for ongoing and statutory responsibilities.
- 1.34 It should be noted that the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (the funding to cover statutory duties in respect of all schools, including

Academies and Free Schools) has now been transferred into the DSG central schools services block (£856,000) and, with Schools Forum agreement, this money will be retained by the council.

- 1.35 The DfE announced allocations of the gross (pre-recoupment) Dedicated Schools Grant funding to local authorities in December 2017. The Schools and Central Blocks are confirmed figures, but the Early Years and High Needs blocks are provisional at this stage and will change during 2018. The allocations and the indicative DSG budget are set out in Table 1 below. Table 2 shows the Schools' Funding Factor rates. At its meeting on 13 February the Policy and Resources Committee will be asked to approve the draft Schools budget (DSG) of £327.313m, to note the draft Post-16 budget of £5.417m and to agree that any changes to the budget reasonably required as a result of the final 2018-19 DSG and Post-16 settlement are delegated for decision to the Strategic Director - Children & Young People in consultation with the Director of Resources.
- 1.36 The revised allocation for the Schools Block, now based on October 2017 school census data, and a review of the school growth funding required for 2018-19 means it is now possible to ensure that no school has less funding per pupil in 2018-19 than in 2017-18. This can be achieved by setting a Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0%, which means that no school will receive less money per pupil in 2018-19 than it did in 2017-18. To ensure this is affordable, it is proposed to set a cap on gains at +0.24% per pupil for any schools gaining from the phased introduction of the National Funding Formula. The MFG and cap on gains are subject to approval by the Schools Forum at its next meeting on 1 February.

Table 1 – DSG allocations and the indicative Schools Budget

	Schools Block £m	High Needs Block £m	Early Years Block £m	Central Block £m	Total DSG £m	Post-16 £m
2018/19 DSG Block Value (incl. Post 16)	248.673	48.128	28.392	2.120	327.313	5.417
Proposed Budget Allocation:		48.128	27.105		75.233	5.417
School Funding Formula	247.833				247.833	
Central Services (subject to Schools Forum agreement)			1.287	1.264	2.551	
Statutory duties				0.856	0.856	
Growth Fund*	0.840				0.840	
Estimated Total Expenditure	248.673	48.128	28.392.	2.120	327.313	5.417

*Note: the Growth Fund is for the one-off costs of setting up new schools, expanding existing schools and temporary 'bulge' classes. Growth funding also includes funding for the additional pupils and this element of growth funding is included in the school funding formula line and amounts to £2.348m.

Table 2 - Schools' Funding Factor rates (for the ATP submission to the DfE)

2017/18 Barnet Formula	2018/19 NFF rates (Area Cost adjusted)
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Pupil Led Factors

Description		Amount per pupil		Amount per pupil	
1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,325.75		£3,016.29	
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,782.86		£4,241.69	
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£4,782.86		£4,815.96	
	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil
2) Deprivation	FSM	Not used in 2017/18		£483.13	£483.13
	FSM6	£1,423.56	£505.00	£592.94	£861.95
	IDACI Band F	£0.00	£0.00	£219.61	£318.43
	IDACI Band E	£0.00	£0.00	£263.53	£428.23
	IDACI Band D	£0.00	£0.00	£395.29	£565.49
	IDACI Band C	£880.00	£2,189.44	£428.23	£614.90
	IDACI Band B	£2,100.00	£5,224.80	£461.17	£658.82
	IDACI Band A	£4,000.00	£9,952.00	£631.37	£889.40
3) Looked After Children (LAC)	LAC March 17	£0.00			
4) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	EAL 2 Primary	£530.00		£565.49	
	EAL 2 Secondary		£1,378.00		£1,520.77
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£422.90	£618.53	£422.90	£618.53
6) Prior attainment	Low Attainment % old FSP 73	Not used in Barnet 2017/18 Formula		£1,152.93	
	Secondary low attainment (year 7)				
	Secondary low attainment (year 8)				
	Secondary low attainment (years 9 to 11)				

- 1.37 Schools Forum agreement is needed to transfer any funding out of the Schools block into the High Needs block. A maximum of 0.5% of the schools block may be transferred. Other blocks are not subject to limits on transfers (other than the requirement that 95% of Early Years allocations for 3- and 4- year olds must be passed through to providers). Local Authorities must consult their Schools Forum and providers likely to be affected by any other proposed block transfers.
- 1.38 Many local authorities have sought Schools Forum agreement to transfer money from their Schools block to the High Needs block because of the substantial budgetary pressure they are experiencing in their High Needs block spending. It is not proposed to transfer funding from the Schools block to the High Needs block for 2018-19, despite similar pressures being of increasing significance in Barnet. However, the High Needs block will need even more rigorous management in 2018-19 to prevent it overspending.
- 1.39 **Schools Block** - The 2018/19 Schools Block Income is based on the following rates:
- £4,391 Primary unit of funding based on 30,017 primary pupils (October 2017 census)
 - £5,700 Secondary unit of funding based on 19,934 secondary pupils (October 2017 census)
 - £3.257m of funding for Pupil Growth, Premises and Mobility - historic spend/ not Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) adjusted.
 - TOTAL = £248.673m
- 1.40 **High Needs Block** - The provisional High Needs block income for Barnet has been calculated as follows:
- £44.754m - Actual High Needs national funding formula allocation
 - £2.668m - based on a £4,446 per pupil ACA weighted base rate * 667 (pupils in special schools/ academies based on the October 2017 census)
 - £0.408m - Import/export adjustment £6,000 * 68 (net imported) pupils
 - TOTAL = £48.128m
- This represents a 0.2% increase on baseline funding in 2017/18. The final import/export adjustment (68 imported pupils in Barnet) data will be amended to reflect January 2018 special school census data.
- 1.41 **Early Years Block** - The Early Years Block is estimated using early years numbers taken from the Early Years and Schools census in January 2017. An update to the 2017/18 Early Years Block allocation will be made once the January 2018 Early Years and Schools census numbers are finalised.
- 1.42 **Central Block** – The provisional 2018/19 central block for Barnet includes the following:
- £1.656m – allocation for ongoing responsibilities (includes former ‘retained duties’ Education Services Grant)
 - £0.464m – Historic commitments allocation
 - TOTAL = £2.12m
- 1.43 **ATP submission to the DfE** - The council is required to submit a completed Authority Proforma Tool (the APT), to the Department for Education (DfE)

annually, which shows all the detailed assumptions underpinning the proposals for allocating budgets to schools. For Academies and Free Schools it captures the data required by the Education and Schools Funding Agency to calculate academy budgets and recoument deductions to dedicated schools grant allocations.

- 1.44 The proposed funding rates for 2018/19 financial year based on the recommended option for the Barnet transitional funding formula for schools in 2018-19 (the NFF with additional protection) are shown in table 2 above, along with the current factors in the Barnet funding formula for 2017-18. Although some elements appear to indicate reduced levels of funding per pupil, the actual budgets schools received will be based on the aggregation of all the factors. The application of a 0% Minimum Funding Guarantee will mean no school will have less funding per pupil than in the current year.
- 1.45 The APT is due for submission on 19 January 2018 and the CELS Committee is therefore asked to approve the submission on the basis of Option 2 from the consultation with schools on the Barnet School Funding Formula for 2018-19 – the National Funding Formula with additional protection and with the provision for a Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0%, which means that no school will receive less money per pupil in 2018-19 than they did in 2017-18, while any schools gaining from the phased introduction of the National Funding Formula will have their gains capped at +0.24% per pupil.
- 1.46 Appendix A shows the indicative funding allocations for individual schools and the variance in funding per pupil compared with 2017-18 for each school.
- 1.47 Three other changes that will affect the budgets for some Barnet schools are:
 - 1.47.1 Under transitional arrangements the Apprenticeship Levy for community schools was funded by the council in 2017-18, but, following advice, (from the DfE) it is unable to continue to do so. Community Schools will therefore face a levy of 0.5% on their payroll bills from April 2018. Schools were made aware of this in November.
 - 1.47.2 In 2016-17 the council received Education Services Grant (ESG) funding of £2.8m in relation to the statutory services it must provide to maintained schools (community and voluntary-aided schools, maintained special schools, nursery schools and PRUs). This funding was cut in the current financial year. In place of this ESG funding, the council received transitional funding of £985,000 and a 'school intervention and improvement grant' of £192,000. It is understood there will be no transitional funding in 2018-19 and it is not yet known if the school improvement grant will continue. The council may request retention of schools block funding by asking for dedelegation of funding from maintained schools' budgets (not Academies or Free Schools) to cover some of this loss of ESG income. It chose not to do so in 2017-18, having regard to the transitional funding. For 2018-19 the council decided only to ask for de-delegation in respect of part of the cost of school improvement services currently undertaken over and above what is paid for from the school intervention and improvement grant. To enable the school improvement service to continue at its current level, the authority requested

that maintained schools de-delegate approximately £101,000 towards the cost of these services. The de-delegation rate proposed was £3.55 per Primary pupil and £1.80 per Secondary pupil. This was agreed by the Schools Forum at its meeting on 7th December 2017.

1.47.3 The Schools Forum was asked to agree one other additional item for dedelegation. The current Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017 allows local authorities to hold a budget for “expenditure on the schools specific contingency”. This centrally held item is deducted for the purpose of ensuring that monies are available to increase a school’s budget share after it has been allocated and where it subsequently becomes apparent that a governing body has incurred expenditure which it would be unreasonable to expect it to meet from the school’s budget share. This may include expenditure in circumstances which were unforeseen when the school’s budget share was initially determined. An example of the use of contingencies would be the funding of additional NNDR (business rate) costs following a re-valuation. By having a contingency, the LA can meet the unexpected additional costs during the year in question. Without the contingency the school would have to meet the additional costs from its own resources. Academies and free schools are not affected as the contingency can only be applied to maintained schools. For all schools, following a re-valuation, the following year’s budget is adjusted to reflect the actual revised NNDR costs. The de-delegation rate proposed for both Primary and Secondary maintained schools was £2 per pupil. This was agreed by the Schools Forum on 7th December 2017.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The report informs and updates the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee in relation to school funding.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 The timetable for decision making and submission of the APT is set down by DfE and the Council is obligated to make a decision on its school funding formula. The two options consulted on are included above, with reasons as to why option 2 is preferred.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Funding will be distributed to schools in accordance with the arrangements set out in the report.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

Ensuring that resources available to schools are appropriately allocated and supports the delivery of the council’s Corporate Plan 2015-2020 to ensure that ‘Barnet’s children and young people will receive a great start in life’ and that

'Barnet schools will be amongst the best in the country, with enough places for all and with all children achieving the best that they can'.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

The financial implications for the council are set out in the paragraphs above.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Article 7 - Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships of the council's constitution states that the committee has responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools, education and libraries.

5.3.2 The composition, constitution and procedures of Schools Forums are set out in the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/2261). They set out the respective roles and responsibilities of the local authority and the Forum.

5.3.3 The legislation governing the current system is the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and associated regulations. In addition there are detailed regulations covering decision making and consultation requirements with the schools' forum and individual schools.

5.3.4 From 2018-19 the dedicated schools grant will be split into four blocks, namely schools' block, high needs block, early years block and central schools block. From 2020-21 it is proposed to distribute the schools' blocks directly to schools based on a national funding formula. Local authorities are permitted to implement local transitional funding formulae in 2018-19 and 2019-20.

5.3.5 The Government has calculated the schools' block based on the national funding formula, but will continue to distribute this to local authorities, who continue to have requirements in relation to consultation with the schools forum and autonomy to distribute it to schools based on existing factors. The funding is based on a notional per school funding basis, plus funding for premises and growth.

5.3.6 Current regulations require that the local authority consult its schools forum on any proposed changes to its funding formula and make an annual submission to the Department for Education.

5.4 Risk Management

The annual submission of school funding information to the Department for Education is governed by a strict timetable to ensure that schools are allocated budgets in good time for each new financial year.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 The Council has a duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act to have due regard to the need to:

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

5.5.2 The protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation.

5.5.3 In reviewing the arrangements for the education of pupils with special educational needs and for the use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school ensures that the particular needs of vulnerable children and young people are championed

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

The regulations set out the requirements to consult with schools for aspects of school funding. Consultation was undertaken with schools and the Schools Forum in relation to the Barnet school funding formula for 2018-19.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 9th March 2015

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=697&MId=7927&Ver=4>

6.2 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 14th June 2016
Annual Report on school funding in Barnet and the Government's consultation on a national school funding formula

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s32469/Annual%20Report%20on%20school%20funding%20in%20Barnet%20and%20the%20Governments%20consultation%20on%20a%20national%20school%20fun.pdf>

6.3 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee 21st February 2017

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=697&MId=8689&Ver=4>