

	<h2>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</h2> <h3>13 January 2020</h3>
<b>Title</b>	Annual Report on School Funding in Barnet for 2020/21
<b>Report of</b>	Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1: Indicative school funding allocations
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<h2>Summary</h2>	
<p>This annual report on school funding arrangements updates the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on the school funding position in relation to Barnet schools.</p> <p>The report describes the main features of Barnet's Schools Budget for 2020/21 and seeks approval for the Authority Proforma Tool submission (which sets out the local funding formula for Barnet primary and secondary schools and thus indicates the level of funding under the formula for each school). This includes a Minimum Funding Guarantee of +1.84%, which means that every primary and secondary school will receive an increase in funding per pupil of at least this percentage in 2020/21. For maintained schools this is the case before any adjustments to their budgets, as a result of changes to de-delegation or to the amount deducted for services previously funded from the Education Services Grant.</p> <p>This report also addresses the request made at the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on 10th September 2019 for an update on Nursery School funding to be included in this report.</p>	

## **Recommendations**

**That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee:**

- 1. Note the annual report on school funding in Barnet.**
- 2. Approve the submission of the Authority Proforma Tool (which specifies the authority's funding formula for schools) on the basis of paragraphs 1.13 to 1.31, which includes a Minimum Funding Guarantee of +1.84% and means that every primary and secondary school will receive an increase in funding per pupil of at least this percentage in 2020/21, (through the pupil-led element of the schools funding formula), while any schools gaining from the introduction of the National Funding Formula will not have their gains capped.**
- 3. Note that the overall Schools Budget will be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 for onward submission to full council as part of the budget setting process.**
- 4. Recommends to Council that any changes to the Schools Budget reasonably required as a result of the final 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant and Post-16 settlement are delegated for decision to the Executive Director, Children's Services in consultation with the Director of Finance**

### **1 WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 This report updates the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on the Barnet Schools Budget for 2020/21.

#### **National funding announcements and the Schools National Funding Formula**

- 1.2 The government has confirmed an increase of £2.6 billion in schools funding for 2020/21, £4.8 billion for 2021/22 and £7.1 billion for 2022-23, compared to 2019/20. As part of the overall increase, it was announced that an additional £700m of high needs funding will be allocated to support children and young people with special educational needs in 2020/21.
- 1.3 In September 2017, the Department for Education confirmed the introduction of national funding formulae for schools, high needs and central school services from 2018/19 and set out the details of the formulae for 2018/19 and 2019/20. The National Funding Formula for the early years block was introduced previously in 2017/18.

- 1.4 All primary and secondary schools will be funded in accordance with the National Funding Formula (NFF) from 2021/22. For 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, the 'Schools Block' funding allocations to local authorities are being 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.
- 1.5 However, local authorities are not required to implement the national formula during this period. They are free to adopt a transitional local funding formula, 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) – the maximum decrease or minimum increase in funding per pupil. For 2020/21 LAs are required to set an MFG increase of between +0.5% and +1.84%.
- 1.6 The DfE has also set a minimum funding level of £5,000 per secondary pupil in 2020/21 and £3,750 per primary pupil in 2020/21, rising to £4,000 per pupil from 2021/22. In Barnet, all except one Secondary school received more than £5,000 per pupil in 2019/20, so protection under this funding factor is limited to that one school. Some primary schools will be affected by the Primary minimum but the amounts of uplift are not significant as most of these are currently funded very close to the £3,750 per pupil level.
- 1.7 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 10 October 2019 and agreed unanimously to continue to use the National Funding Formula with protection through the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2020/21.
- 1.8 At the same meeting the Schools Forum agreed:
- A £0.200m reduction in dedelegation for Additional School Improvement Support for maintained primary and secondary schools, because the DfE had extended School Improvement Grant funding to the end of 2019-20 thus creating an underspend in the dedelegation budget which will roll forward and be used to offset the dedelegated amount required in 2020/21.
  - A £0.200m increase in dedelegation for the School Contingency budget to cover redundancy costs for maintained primary and secondary schools in financial difficulty.
  - to charge the cost of services formerly funded from the Education Services Grant to the budgets of maintained primary and secondary schools, but at a reduced level of £0.700m, compared to £1.000m in 2019/20.

### **The financial position in individual schools**

- 1.9 Most Barnet schools continue to be able to set balanced budgets and a number have significant amounts in their end of year balances. More than half of maintained schools had revenue balances in excess of 5% of their annual income at the end of the 2018/19 financial year. On the other hand, there has been a growing number of maintained schools with deficit budgets, who have had to apply for a licensed deficit while they implement a recovery plan to get the budget back into balance. Several other schools have had to make significant savings in order to balance their budget.

- 1.10 Some schools are also beginning to face financial pressures as a result of falling rolls. The significant growth in Primary pupil numbers in recent years has now levelled off in some parts of the borough and some schools have seen a fall in reception admissions, with a knock-on effect on formula funding. Secondary admissions rose once again in 2019 and are expected to rise further over the next 2 years. As a result the small number of secondary schools that were not fully subscribed in Year 7 have seen an increase in intake compared to previous years.
- 1.11 There are currently eight maintained schools with a licensed deficit and an agreed recovery plan – ten per cent of all maintained primary and secondary schools. Two are voluntary-aided secondary schools; the rest are primary schools, both community and voluntary-aided; the schools in both phases are a mixture of sizes. The council is aware that a number of Academies and Free Schools may also be in deficit but does not have the information on which ones are in deficit, as the council does not have financial oversight responsibility for them.
- 1.12 The council supports maintained schools facing financial difficulties by providing advice on the development of recovery plans, by agreeing licensed deficits for up to three years for schools that have deficits, subject to agreement on a recovery plan, and by offering support and advice to schools on organisational options, where an amalgamation or federation with another school may lead to financial savings.

### **The Barnet Schools Budget for 2020/21**

- 1.13 The Schools Budget is mainly funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). For 2020/21 this is made up of four main funding streams, also known as blocks, under the National Funding Formula (NFF) arrangements:
- Schools Block
  - Early Years Block
  - High Needs Block
  - Central School Services Block
- 1.14 The Schools Block (SB) allocates funding for pupils in Reception to Year 11 in state-funded mainstream schools and academies. The Early Years block (EYB) funds early education entitlements for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds in private, voluntary and independent settings, maintained nursery schools and school nursery classes. The funding for 2-year olds is specifically for pupils from households with low incomes. The High Needs Block (HNB) supports provision for vulnerable children and young people, mainly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25, enabling both local authorities and institutions to meet their statutory duties under the [Children and Families Act 2014](#). The Department for Education (DfE) created a Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) in 2018/19, using the baseline of the schools block in 2017/18. The CSSB covers funding for historic commitments and funding for ongoing and statutory responsibilities.
- 1.15 The DfE announced allocations of the gross DSG to local authorities on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The figures confirm the Schools Block and the Central School Services Block. However, the High Needs Block and the Early Years Block are indicative at this stage and will change during 2020.

1.16 The indicative DSG budget for 2020/21 by block is set out in Table 1 below.

<b>Table 1 – DSG Allocations and the Indicative Schools Budget</b>	<b>Schools Block</b>	<b>High Needs Block</b>	<b>Early Years Block</b>	<b>Central Block</b>	<b>Total DSG</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Budget Monitoring as at December 2019	143.407	45.169	28.928	2.183	219.687
Add: Academy Funding	111.457				111.457
Add: Funding for places at Academies		4.882			4.882
<b>2019/20 Gross DSG as at December 2019</b>	<b>254.864</b>	<b>50.051</b>	<b>28.928</b>	<b>2.183</b>	<b>336.026</b>
<b>Movement from 2019/20</b>					
*Growth Fund, premises and NNDR allocation	0.884				0.884
Additional pupil funding - unit of funding increase	6.505			0.033	6.538
Pupil growth	3.380			0.018	3.398
Additional Funding / (Reduction)		4.496	0.376	(0.093)	4.779
<b>2020/21 Gross DSG Block as announced</b>	<b>265.633</b>	<b>54.548</b>	<b>29.304</b>	<b>2.141</b>	<b>351.626</b>
Less: Academy Funding (Recoupment - confirmed in March 2020)	(116.078)				(116.078)
Less: Funding for HN places at Academies		(4.868)			(4.868)
<b>2020/21 Net DSG Income</b>	<b>149.555</b>	<b>49.680</b>	<b>29.304</b>	<b>2.141</b>	<b>230.680</b>

1.17 The allocation for the Schools Block is based on October 2019 school census data. A minimum Funding Guarantee of +1.84% means that every Primary or Secondary school will receive at least this percentage increase per pupil through the formula in 2020/21 than it did in 2019/20. In addition, each primary school is guaranteed a minimum of £3,750 per pupil and each secondary schools is guaranteed to receive at least £5,000 per pupil in 2020/21.

### **Allocations by block**

1.18 **Schools Block** – - The 2020/21 SB Income is based on the following rates:

- £4,512.29 Primary unit of funding based on 29,947 primary pupils (October 2019 census)
- £5,869.37 Secondary unit of funding based on 21,305 secondary pupils (October 2019 census)

- £5.456m of funding for Pupil Growth, Premises and Mobility - historic spend/ not Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) adjusted.
- TOTAL = £265.633m

1.19 **High Needs Block** - The provisional HNB income for Barnet has been calculated as follows:

- £50.892m - Actual High Needs NFF allocation
- £3.098m - based on a £4,450.58 per pupil Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) weighted base rate \* 696 (pupils in special schools/ academies based on the October 2019 census)
- £0.414m - Import/export adjustment £6,000 \* 69 (net imported) pupils
- £0.144m – Additional High Needs Funding for Special Free School
- TOTAL = £54.548m

This represents a minimum 8.0 % increase per head of 2-18 population on baseline funding in 2019/20. The final import/ export adjustment (£4.868m net imported pupils in Barnet) data will be amended based on January 2020 school and FE providers' HN pupil census data.

1.20 **Early Years Block** – The EYB is estimated using early years numbers taken from the Early Years and Schools census in January 2019. An update to the 2019/20 EYB allocation will be made once the January 2020 Early Years and Schools census numbers are finalised. The Proposed funding rates for 3 to 4-year olds for 2020/21 increase to £5.23 base rate per hour, £1.60 IDACI rate, giving a notional overall rate of £5.51 per hour per provider. This is an 1.3% increase as compared to 2019/20, in line with the growth in overall funding for 3 to 4-year olds for 2020/21. The funding rate in 2020/21 for disadvantaged 2-year olds will rise to £6.00 in line with income rate.

1.21 **Central School Services Block** – The provisional 2020/21 CSSB for Barnet includes the following:

- £1.770m – allocation for ongoing responsibilities (includes retained duties, admissions, licensing and schools forum administration)
- £0.371m – Historic commitments allocation, a 20% reduction from 2019/20.
- TOTAL = £2.141m

1.22 **APT submission to the DfE** - The council is required to submit a completed Authority Proforma Tool (APT) to the DfE annually, which shows all the detailed calculations and 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 (EFSA) to calculate academy budgets and recoupment deductions to the gross DSG. National Funding Formula factor rates have been increased by 4% for 2020/21, except for FSM, which was uprated by inflation.

**Table 2 - Schools' Pupil led Factor rates (for the APT submission to the DfE)**

Description		2019/20 Barnet Formula		2020/21 NFF rates (Area Cost adjusted)	
		Amount per pupil		Amount per pupil	
1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,016.29		£3,139.90	
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,241.69		£4,415.86	
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£4,815.96		£5,012.63	
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Primary amount per pupil</b>	<b>Secondary amount per pupil</b>	<b>Primary amount per pupil</b>	<b>Secondary amount per pupil</b>
2) Deprivation	FSM	£483.13	£483.13	£494.56	£494.56
	FSM6	£592.94	£861.95	£615.45	£895.70
	IDACI Band F	£219.61	£318.43	£230.79	£329.71
	IDACI Band E	£263.53	£428.23	£274.76	£445.10
	IDACI Band D	£395.29	£565.49	£412.13	£587.98
	IDACI Band C	£428.23	£614.90	£445.10	£637.43
	IDACI Band B	£461.17	£658.82	£478.07	£686.89
	IDACI Band A	£631.37	£889.40	£659.41	£923.18
3) Looked After Children (LAC)	LAC	Not a Factor under NFF		Not a factor under NFF	
4) English as an Additional Language (EAL)	EAL 2 Primary	£565.49		£587.98	
	EAL 2 Secondary		£1,520.77		£1,582.59
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£422.90	£618.53	£961.64	£1,373.78
6) Prior attainment	Low Attainment % old FSP 73	£1,152.93		£1,170.46	
	Secondary low attainment (year 7 - 9)		£1,701.95		£1,769.42
	Secondary low attainment (years 10 to 11)				

- 1.23 The proposed funding rates for 2020/21 financial year are shown in table 2 above, along with the current factors in the Barnet funding formula for 2019/20. Under the NFF, Schools Block Factor rates for 2020/21 have been increased by 4% from 2019/20. Indicative Funding Schools Block allocations for 2020/21 are shown in Appendices I.
- 1.24 The APT is due for submission on 21st January 2020. The main purpose of this tool is:
- to allow local authorities to model different options for their 2020 to 2021 schools block funding formulae and at the same time act as the proforma which local authorities will submit in January 2020; it is also the mechanism by which we provide the schools block dataset to local authorities
  - to capture all the data required by Educations and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to calculate academy budgets, including information on the number of occupied high needs places at special units and resourced provision in mainstream academies to determine the place funding rate
  - to enable ESFA to check that the formula has been applied reasonably and in compliance with regulations and conditions of grant, and that central budgets are being allocated in line with regulations
  - to enable ESFA to check that at least 99.5% of funding allocated through the schools block element of the DSG is passed through the funding formula set by the local authority, or allocated to the growth fund or falling rolls fund.
  - to collect data on maintained schools' schools block budgets for publication
  - to use the notional allocations for academies for recoupment purposes; recoupment will continue to take place based on the budget, including the minimum funding guarantee, that the academy would have received as a maintained school
  - to give ESFA information about which academies and future converters are judged by the local authority as meeting the criteria to qualify for exceptional factors or MFG exclusions so that these can be taken into account in their funding allocations.
- 1.25 In addition to the rates submitted in the APT as shown in Table 2, the authority also has to clarify the funding criteria used when allocating growth and split site funding; the criteria for these factors is as previously agreed by Schools Forum and as described below:
- 1.26 Growth Fund:
- The Growth Fund can only be used only to:
  - Support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
  - Support additional classes to meet infant class size regulation
  - Meet the costs of new schools
- 1.27 Local Authorities (LAs) are responsible for funding the growth needs of all their schools in their area, including new and existing maintained schools and academies. LAs must fund growth needs to all schools on the same criteria. Schools Forum is required to approve the Growth Fund criteria.

- 1.28 The costs of new schools will include the lead-in costs and will also include post start up and diseconomy of scale costs. Growth Fund support should be provided where academies are created to meet basic need.
- 1.29 From 2020/21, the DfE have announced new mandatory (subject to consultation) NFF factors for minimum per pupil funding (MPPF) amounts for primary schools at £3,750 rising to £4,000 in 2021/22 and for secondary schools at £5,000. In view of this likely change it is proposed to amend the existing Growth Fund criteria to reflect the MPPF values, where new classes start in September term of the financial year 2020/21. This will increase the amounts payable to primary schools from £48,000 to £65,625 and for secondary schools; from £61,000 to £87,500 for each new class of 30.
- 1.30 Schools Forum is also required to approve the size of the Growth Fund, which is estimated to be £2.513m.

**Growth Criteria:**

- “Bulge classes opened at the request of the local authority - £10,000 one-off start-up grant plus £65,625 (7/12x£3,750x30) for a primary class of 30 opening in September.
- £87,500 (7/12x£5,000x30) for a secondary class of 30 opening in September.
- Permanent expansions approved by the local authority - £65,625 (7/12x£3,750x30) for a primary class of 30 opening in September, £87,500 (7/12x£5,000x30) for a secondary class of 30 opening in September.
- Temporary accommodation costs incurred as a direct result of LA approved expansions.
- Independent schools transferring to VA status - Allocation based on funding formula pro-rata for months open, based on previous actual pupils on roll, plus permanent expansion funding if appropriate.
- Newly established schools for which the LA is responsible to provide start-up up funding - Start-up funding of £220,000 primary/ £300,000 secondary in LA financial year of opening.
- New school phases (expansions to All-through status): New phase start-up funding of £50,000 primary/ £90,000 secondary in LA financial year of opening.
- Diseconomies of scale funding will be available to new basic needs academies and maintained schools opening new phases until there are pupils in every year group. No diseconomies of scale funding will be available to independent schools which become maintained. Diseconomies of scale per empty year group, paid from year after opening until pupils in all year groups. Academies are paid these rates in the current financial year with a further 5/12ths payment to cover the full academic year.”

**Split site funding:** The Local Authority intends to use the following criteria for qualifying settings in the APT for 2020/21.

- “School buildings on split sites are funded as follows (excludes sports and play areas, premises used for nurseries and sixth forms only and all-through schools where each site is used solely for either primary or secondary phases).
- The funding rate for a school on a split site is currently £29,958 (primary) or £99,412 (secondary).

- All through schools receive the primary split site allocation (£29,958) if they have primary year groups on more than one site, and £19,882.40 per secondary year group (£99,412/5) located across more than one site. This is increased by part year fractions as schools expand across sites.
- Secondary schools on split sites also receive an allowance for staff travel between sites, depending on how far apart the two sites are. The rate is £53,492. If the buildings are very close and simply separated by a public road this rate is multiplied by 0.2. If further apart the multiplier is 1.4.”

1.31 The schools block income for 2020/21 as shown in Table 1 above is £265.633m. The draft 2020/21 schools block expenditure as submitted on the APT is broken down as follows:

Split site, lump sum and NNDR allocations	£17.866m
Formula funding and MFG allocations	£245.254m
Growth funding	£2.513m
<b>Total Schools Block expenditure</b>	<b>£265.633m</b>

The appendices show the indicative MFG and school factors funding allocations for individual schools and the variance in funding per pupil compared with 2019/20 for each school. These may be subject to data corrections and will be verified by the DfE before final confirmation to schools. The figures do not include Post-16, early years or SEN funding.

### Funding of Nursery Schools

- 1.32 At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee asked for an update on Nursery School funding to be incorporated as part of the Annual School Funding report at the January Committee.
- 1.33 Nursery Schools are funded on the same basis as all other early years providers, including nursery classes in primary schools and early years placed provided by Private, Voluntary and Independent providers. A new national funding formula for early years came into force in 2017-18. Under the National Early Years Funding Formula, the same funding formula will apply to all providers.
- 1.34 However, supplementary funding has been paid by the DfE to some local authorities, initially for a transitional period of up to two years, where this was needed ‘to enable local authorities to fund nursery schools at the same level as they did in 2016-17’. As the notional hourly rate for 3 and 4 year-olds in Barnet exceeded the rate that was paid to Barnet nursery schools in 2016-17, Barnet nursery schools were not covered by the grant.
- 1.35 The DfE has indicated that the transitional funding paid to some nursery schools will continue next year. However, the detailed technical note makes it clear the funding will only apply to those that already receive it. However, it is understood that the Secretary of State for Education has promised a review on the future of maintained nursery schools that will address the need for maintained nursery schools to be placed on a stable financial footing.

- 1.36 Barnet nursery schools are funded in accordance with the Early Years National Funding Formula. In 2019-20 each receives £5.17 an hour per pupil, plus a deprivation rate of £0.19 for Moss Hall Nursery School and £0.24 for the three nursery schools in the BEYA (Barnet Early Years Alliance) federation, these being marginally below the Borough average rate for deprivation.
- 1.37 Both BEYA and Moss Hall Nursery School had significant revenue balances at the end of the 2018-19 financial year. but both have indicated that they will have to draw heavily on their balances over the coming year or two and will not be able to balance their budgets in the near future.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The report informs and updates the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee in relation to school funding and committee approval for the submission of the APT is required.

## **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The timetable for decision making and submission of the APT is set down by the DfE and the Council is obligated to make a decision on its school funding formula. Consideration was given to having a higher or lower MFG but the option in this report was chosen in order to protect pupil-level funding while still allowing some increase for those schools that gain from the National Funding Formula.

## **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**

The quality of the education offer in Barnet is at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study. It plays a crucial part in making Barnet a popular and desirable place with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools.

- 5.2 Excellent educational outcomes and ensuring children and young people are equipped to meet the needs of employers are key to delivering the Council's strategic objectives set out in its Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
  - where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
  - where responsibility is shared, fairly where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.

5.3 The London Borough of Barnet's Education Strategy 2017-2020 sets out that good leadership and governance is a key driver to the achievement of the improvement of schools and educational outcomes.

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 safeguarding.

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 Schools 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 For 2020/21 the dedicated schools grant will be split into four blocks, namely schools' block, high needs block, early years block and central schools block. From 2021/22 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, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

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 calculated 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**

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

The protected characteristics are:

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

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 Corporate Parenting Principles**

The proposed APT submission does not impact on the funding of the Virtual School; nor does it affect High Needs funding, which is a significant factor for looked after children, as a significant number are supported through funding from the High Needs Block.

#### **5.7 Consultation and Engagement**

At its meeting on 10 October 2019 the Schools Forum agreed there was no need to consult on the local funding formula, as there were no proposals to change the current approach.

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS –**

None