

	<h2>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</h2> <h3>11 January 2021</h3>
Title	Annual Report on School Funding in Barnet for 2021/22
Report of	Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	<p>Chris Munday, Executive Director, Children's Services Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Ian Harrison, Education and Skills Director, Barnet with Cambridge Education Ian.J.Harrison@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7943</p>
<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 2021/22 and seeks approval for the formula funding to be used in 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 +2.00%, which means that every primary and secondary school will receive an increase in funding per pupil of at least this percentage in 2021/22 (through the pupil-led element of the schools funding formula). 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 30th November 2020 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 formula funding to be used in the Authority Proforma Tool (which specifies the authority's funding formula for schools) on the basis of paragraphs 1.27 to 1.36, which includes a Minimum Funding Guarantee of +2.0% and means that every primary and secondary school will receive an increase in funding per pupil of at least this percentage in 2021/22, (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. Authorises the Executive Director, Children's Services to approve the final Authority Proforma Tool for submission to the DfE.**
- 4. Note that the overall Schools Budget will be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its next meeting on 8th February 2021 for onward submission to full council as part of the budget setting process.**
- 5. Recommends to Council that any changes to the Schools Budget reasonably required as a result of the final 2021/22 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 2021/22.

2020/21 Forecast Position as at Month Ending 30th November 2020

- 1.2 The forecast is showing an underspend of £1.106m as at the month ending 30th November 2020. See table 1a below for the breakdown of this.

Table 1a Dedicated Schools Grant Month 8

	Budget	Month 8 Forecast Outturn after reserve movements	Month 8 variation to revised budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Schools:			
Individual Schools Budget	142,824	142,754	(70)
Growth Fund	2,545	360	(2,185)
Central schools expenditure	1,087	1,087	0
ESG retained funding	1,054	1,054	0
Sub-total	147,510	145,255	(2,255)
Early Years Block	29,877	29,410	(467)
High Needs Block	49,676	51,293	1,617
Sub-total	79,553	80,703	1,150
Total	227,063	225,958	(1,105)
<u>Income</u>			
DSG Income	(227,064)	(227,064)	0
Total Income	(227,064)	(227,064)	0
Net DSG	1	(1,106)	(1,105)

- 1.3 The overspend on high needs is mainly the result of an increasing number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans and increasing costs being identified as pupils are placed. This accounts for overspend of £1.617m.
- 1.4 The DSG forecast underspend would lead to an increase in the reserve as can be seen in table 1b below.

Table 1b Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve Forecast

Reserves use	Brought forward	Forecast Movement	Forecast carry forward
	£000s	£000s	£000s
DSG reserve	1,808	1,106	2,914

- 1.5 The government has provided funding to cover some of the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on schools via 2 methods:
- Direct applications for funding and

- Catch-up premium based on pupil numbers (£80 per primary and secondary pupil from Reception Year 11, £240 per pupil for specialist settings – special schools and PRUs) with no application required.

The council's role in this is simply to passport the money through to schools. To date a total of £1.066m has been passported through (£0.440m for direct applications and £0.626m for Covid19 catchup premium). There will be a second tranche of Covid19 catchup funding in this financial year and a third tranche in 2021-22.

National funding announcements and the Schools National Funding Formula

- 1.6 In 2019, the government 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 the funding level of 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. In addition to this, a further £1 billion of Covid Catch-Up funding has been allocated across 2020/21 and 2021/22. £650m of this was allocated through the catch-up premium allocations to schools. The remaining £350m was allocated to pay for subsidised tutoring delivered through the National Tutoring Programme.
- 1.7 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. The National Funding Formula for the early years block was introduced previously in 2017/18.
- 1.8 For 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, the 'Schools Block' funding allocations to local authorities were 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. All primary and secondary schools were due to be funded in accordance with the National Funding Formula (NFF) from 2021/22. However, it was announced last year that the current transitional arrangements would continue in 2021-22.
- 1.9 Under the transitional arrangements local authorities are not required to implement the national formula. 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 2021/22 local authorities are required to set an MFG increase of between +0.5% and +2.00%.
- 1.10 The DfE has also set a minimum funding level of £5,415 per secondary pupil in 2021/22 and £4,180 per primary pupil in 2021/22. It should be noted that these per pupil rates now include funding which was previously distributed as part of the Teachers Pay Grant and the Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (£180 per pupil for primary aged children and £265 for secondary aged children). In Barnet in 2020/21, all secondary schools received more than £5,415 per pupil (when adjusted for 2020/21 TPG and TPECG grants), so no protection under this funding factor will be granted. 7 primary schools will be affected by the Primary minimum as they were funded under the £4,180 per pupil rate (when adjusted for TPG and TPECG grants).

- 1.11 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 8th October 2020 and agreed unanimously to continue to use the National Funding Formula with protection through the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2021/22.
- 1.12 At the same meeting the Schools Forum agreed:
- to continue to charge the cost of services formerly funded from the Education Services Grant to the budgets of maintained primary and secondary schools, at a level of £0.700m.
 - to maintain, in principle, the same level of dedelegation as in 2020/21 with final figures to be agreed in the January 2021 School Forum

The financial position in individual schools

- 1.13 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 2019/20 financial year. On the other hand, there has been a growing number of maintained schools with deficit budgets, which 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.
- 1.14 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 2020 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.
- 1.15 At the end of 2019/20 there were five maintained schools with a licensed deficit and an agreed recovery plan – two of those have since returned to surplus. In addition, the council is working with a further 12 schools that have indicated that they are likely to end 2020/21 in a deficit position.
- 1.16 The council supports maintained schools facing financial difficulties by providing challenge and scrutiny on proposed recovery plans should a school be unable to set a balanced budget, and by agreeing cash advances for schools that have cash flow difficulties, subject to agreement on a recovery plan.

The Barnet Schools Budget for 2021/22

- 1.17 The Schools Budget is mainly funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). For 2021/22 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

1.18 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](#).

1.19 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.

1.20 The DfE announced allocations of the gross DSG to local authorities on 17th December 2020. 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 2021.

1.21 The indicative DSG budget for 2021/22 by block is set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2 – DSG Allocations and the Indicative Schools Budget	Schools Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Central Block	Total DSG
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Budget Monitoring as at December 2020	145.370	49.676	29.877	2.141	227.064
Add: Academy Funding	120.263				120.263
Add: Funding for places at Academies		5.046			5.046
2020/21 Gross DSG as at December 2020	265.633	54.722	29.877	2.141	352.373
	Schools Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Central Block	Total DSG
2021/22 Gross DSG Block as announced	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
As at Dec 2020	273.699	54.568	30.189	2.193	360.649
Funding for Teacher's Pay & Pension Grants	12.554	0.833			13.387
Add: Funding for Academies	(TBC)*	5.188			5.188

2021/22 DSG Income	286.252*	60.589	30.189	2.193	379.223
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*To be confirmed – included in the figure shown above - final formula funding (submitted through the Authority Proforma Tool) will determine the amount of schools' block that will be recouped to fund academies.

1.22 The allocation for the Schools Block is based on October 2020 school census data. A proposed minimum Funding Guarantee of +2.00% means that every Primary or Secondary school will receive at least this percentage increase per pupil through the formula in 2021/22 (through the pupil-led element of the schools funding formula) above the amount it received in 2020/21. In addition, each primary school is guaranteed a minimum of £4,180 per pupil and each secondary school is guaranteed to receive at least £5,415 per pupil in 2021/22.

Allocations by block

1.23 **Schools Block** – - The 2021/22 Schools Block Income is based on the following rates:

- £4,814.89 Primary unit of funding based on 29,721 primary pupils (October 2020 census)
- £6,304.32 Secondary unit of funding based on 21,849 secondary pupils (October 2020 census)
- £5.412m of funding for Pupil Growth and Premises factors
- TOTAL = £286.252m

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

- £54.775m - Actual High Needs National Funding Formula allocation
- £4.249m - based on a £5,184.93 per pupil Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) weighted base rate * 820 (pupils in special schools/special academies based on the October 2020 census)
- £0.564m - Import/export adjustment for net 51 imported pupils
- £0.168m – Additional High Needs Funding for Special Free School
- TOTAL = £60.589m

The final import/ export adjustment data will be amended based on January 2021 school and FE providers' HN pupil census data.

1.25 **Early Years Block** – The Early Years Block is estimated using early years numbers taken from the Early Years and Schools census in January 2020. An update to the 2020/21 EYB allocation will be made once the January 2021 Early Years and Schools census numbers are finalised. The proposed funding rates for 3- to 4-year olds and for disadvantaged 2-year olds will be released in January 2021.

1.26 **Central School Services Block** – The provisional 2021/22 Central School Services Block for Barnet includes the following:

- £1.896m – allocation for ongoing responsibilities (includes retained duties, admissions, licensing and Schools Forum administration)
- £0.297m – Historic commitments allocation, a 20% reduction from 2020/21.
- TOTAL = £2.193m

1.27 **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.

Table 3 - Schools' Pupil led Factor rates (for the APT submission to the DfE)

		2020/21 Barnet Formula		2021/22 NFF rates (Area Cost adjusted)	
Description		Amount per pupil		Amount per pupil	
1) Basic Entitlement Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)	Primary (Years R-6)	£3,139.90		£3,432.24	
	Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)	£4,415.86		£4,840.08	
	Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)	£5,012.63		£5,454.44	
	Description	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil	Primary amount per pupil	Secondary amount per pupil
2) Deprivation	FSM	£494.56	£494.56	£505.55	£505.55
	FSM6	£615.45	£895.70	£631.94	£923.18
	IDACI Band F	£230.79	£329.71	£236.29	£340.70
	IDACI Band E	£274.76	£445.10	£285.75	£456.09
	IDACI Band D	£412.13	£587.98	£450.60	£637.43
	IDACI Band C	£445.10	£637.43	£489.06	£692.38
	IDACI Band B	£478.07	£686.89	£522.03	£747.33
	IDACI Band A	£659.41	£923.18	£681.39	£950.65
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	£587.98		£604.46	
	EAL 2 Secondary		£1,582.59		£1,632.04
5) Mobility	Pupils starting school outside of normal entry dates	£961.64	£1,373.78	£989.12	£1,417.74
6) Prior attainment	Low Attainment % old FSP 73	£1,170.46		£1,203.43	
	Secondary low attainment (year 7 - 9)		£1,769.42		£1,824.37

	Secondary low attainment (years 10 to 11)				
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- 1.28 The proposed funding rates for 2021/22 financial year are shown in table 3 above, along with the current factors in the Barnet funding formula for 2020/21. Under the National Funding Formula (NFF), Basic Entitlement Schools Block Factor rates for 2021/22 have been increased by 3% from 2020/21 before the addition of the area cost adjustment and the £180 per primary aged pupil and £265 per secondary aged pupil for Teacher's Pay and Teacher's Pension Grants. As the Government has announced a public sector pay freeze, this increase represents an increase in school funding in real terms compared to 2020/21.
- 1.29 The APT is due for submission on 21st January 2021. The main purpose of this tool is:
- to allow local authorities to model different options for their 2021 to 2022 schools block funding formulae and at the same time act as the proforma which local authorities will submit in January 2021; it is also the mechanism by which the DfE provides the schools block dataset to local authorities.
 - to capture all the data required by the Education 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 the 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 the 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 the 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.
- 1.30 Officers will apply the above funding formula in calculating the budget allocations for all Barnet's state-funded primary and secondary schools. It is proposed that the committee authorise the Executive Director for Children's Services to approve the final APT submission and any changes to the Schools Budget reasonably required as a result of the final 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant and Post-16 settlement in consultation with the Director of Finance.
- 1.31 In addition to the rates submitted in the APT as shown in Table 3, 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 the Schools Forum and as described below:
- 1.32 Growth Fund:

The Growth Fund can only be used 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

- 1.33 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. The Schools Forum is required to approve the Growth Fund criteria.
- 1.34 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.
- 1.35 For 2021/22, the DfE has set minimum per pupil funding (MPPF) amounts for primary schools at £4,180 and for secondary schools at £5,415. In view of this change it is proposed to amend the existing Growth Fund criteria to reflect the MPPF values, where new classes start in September/the autumn term of the financial year 2021/22. This will increase the amounts payable to primary schools from £65,625 to £73,150 and for secondary schools; from £87,500 to £94,763 for each new class of 30.
- 1.36 The Schools Forum is also required to approve the size of the Growth Fund, which will be finalised upon completion of the APT.

Growth Criteria:

- “Bulge classes opened at the request of the local authority - £10,000 one-off start-up grant plus £73,150 (7/12x£4,180x30) for a primary class of 30 opening in September; £94,763 (7/12x£5,415x30) for a secondary class of 30 opening in September.
- Permanent expansions approved by the local authority - £73,150 (7/12x£4,180x30) for a primary class of 30 opening in September, £94,763 (7/12x£5,415x30) 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 for primary and £90,000 for 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 2021/22. "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) and £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."

Funding of Nursery Schools

- 1.37 Nursery Schools are funded on the same basis as all other early years providers, including nursery classes in primary schools and early years places 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 applies to all providers.
- 1.38 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.
- 1.39 Barnet nursery schools are funded in accordance with the Early Years National Funding Formula. In 2020-21 each receives £5.23 an hour per pupil, plus a deprivation rate calculated using IDACI based on the postcodes of the children that attend the school.
- 1.40 Both BEYA (the Barnet Early Years Alliance, a federation of three nursery schools) and Moss Hall Nursery School had significant revenue balances at the end of the 2019-20 financial year. but both have had to draw heavily on their balances during 20-21 and will not be able to balance their budgets from 2021-22 without a change in funding arrangements.
- 1.41 Like other schools, the four maintained nursery schools have incurred additional costs and suffered losses of income as a result of the covid19 pandemic. Unlike primary and secondary schools, nursery schools have not had access to school-based grants and have been unable to claim for covid-related costs from the DfE, despite having a school infrastructure that has still had to be funded throughout the pandemic. It was therefore decided to allocate £15,000 to each of the 4 nursery schools from the Council's Covid19 grant to cover some of the extra costs and lost income the schools incurred as a result of the pandemic. This will help the schools

to avoid a deficit or at least to reduce the size of any deficit at the end of the current financial year.

- 1.42 From 2021/22 the nursery schools are not expected to have any balances to draw on. A review of nursery school budgets shows that, despite major efforts to raise income and cut costs, each school could face an annual deficit from 2021/22 of up to £100,000 a year. The reason for this is that the national early years funding formula does not make any allowance for the additional costs that nursery schools inevitably incur compared to other early years providers, such as having to have a headteacher, deputy head, a SENCo who is a qualified teacher and qualified teaching staff. Yet, unlike primary schools, they are not able to access any lump sum funding (£125,000 a year for Barnet primary schools).
- 1.43 The council and the nursery schools have been lobbying the government to secure additional funding for Barnet's maintained nursery schools for the last two years. As a result, late in 2019 the Secretary of State for Education promised a review of the future of maintained nursery schools that 'he expects to provide a clear outcome that puts maintained nursery schools in Barnet on a stable financial footing for the future.' Since then, Ministers have re-affirmed a commitment to 'appropriate funding' for Maintained Nursery Schools 'in the longer term'. The Chairman of this committee wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families to ask for confirmation that the review of funding for maintained primary schools will result in a significant increase in funding for Barnet's four maintained nursery school for the 2021-22 financial year and subsequently
- 1.44 In December the government announced increases in funding for early years provision but the details of how this will be allocated and of how it will impact on nursery schools is not yet known. It is expected that announcements on the details of the funding of early years will be announced in January 2021. The council will review the issue of funding of Barnet's maintained nursery schools once the details of national funding are announced.

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. The Council is obligated to make a decision on its school 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**

- 5.1.1 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.
- 5.1.2 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.
- 5.1.3 The London Borough of Barnet's Education Strategy 2021-2024 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 2021/22 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 was proposed to distribute the schools' blocks directly to schools based on a national funding formula, but the current arrangements are now continuing for a further year.
- 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**

There is no need to consult on the local funding formula, as there are no proposals to change the current approach. At its meeting on 8th October 2020 the Schools Forum agreed to continue to use the National Funding Formula with protection through the Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2021/22

6 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.