



**Report for:  
CONSULTATION and ACTION**

**Item Number:**

<b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Title</b>	School Funding 2022-23 to 2024-25
<b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>	Tamara Quinn, Assistant Director Planning, Resources and Service Development, <a href="mailto:tquinn@ealing.gov.uk">tquinn@ealing.gov.uk</a> 020 8825 8444
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<b>Portfolio(s)</b>	Councillor Nagpal, Cabinet Member for a Fairer Start
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Date to be Considered</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2023
<b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>	Not applicable
<b>Affected Wards</b>	All
<b>Keywords/Index</b>	School Funding Formula, Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

**Purpose of Report:**

Provide a summary of the outturn position for the Local Authority "LA's" maintained schools and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2022-23; and highlight issues relating to funding that the Forum will need to consider as part of the Early Years, High Needs, Schools and Central Schools Budgets for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

**1. Recommendations for DECISION and NOTING**

It is recommended that the Schools Forum:

- i. **Note** the update from the Assistant Director of Audit and Investigation (**Appendix 1**)
- ii. **Note** the level of school balances as well as loans and deficit agreements at 31st March 2023 (**Appendix 3**).
- iii. Agree the proposed plan of action the Forum wishes to take where schools have excessive surpluses, including applying a clawback mechanism as recommended at option 1 in section 4.3 below (**Appendix 2 and 4**).
- iv. Agree to retain 2022-23 DSG reserves for expected high needs deficits, commitments against the growth fund and other pressures related to future school organisation changes.
- v. **Note** the update on the National Funding Formula (NFF) and the outcome of the government consultation about their approach to implementing the direct NFF.

- vi. **Note** the summary of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding decisions to be made for 2024-25 and **provide initial feedback** on these services to assist in the Local Authority's planning (**Appendix 5**):
  - De-Delegation
  - Retained Duties
  - General Duties
  - Historic Commitments
  - Central Schools Block Commitments
- vii. **Note** an update on Early Years, and the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) for 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- viii. **Note** an update on high needs funding pressures and **provide feedback** on whether the Forum is minded to continue a 0.5% transfer from the School's Block to the High Needs Block.
- ix. **Note** DSG Outturn 2022-23.

## 2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

At the Summer meeting of the Schools Forum officers report the outturn position of the previous financial year 2022-23, the current financial year 2023-24, and financial outlook for the coming financial year 2024-25. Further reports will be made in November and then in January. At the January meeting, final budget proposals are considered before the Schools Block is agreed by the Council and submitted to the Department for Education.

## 3. Key Implications

### 3.1 School Balances

School Balances provisionally totalled £17.8m as at the 31 March 2023, a decrease of £2.6m on the previous year. Of the 75 Ealing maintained schools:

- 64 schools (85%) closed with a surplus balance.
- 24 schools (32%) increased their balances, including 2 schools who moved from a deficit 2021-22 into a surplus in 2022-23.
- 40 schools (53%) decreased their balances.

### 3.2 Excessive and Deficit Balances

An extract from the 2023-24 Ealing Scheme for Financing (**Appendix 2**), sets out that reasonable levels of balances are considered to be up to 8% of budget for nursery, primary and special schools and 5% of budget for High Schools. The excess amount above those thresholds represented £6.4m. Of the maintained schools in Ealing, 30 had excess balances:

- 1 Nursery School
- 25 Primary Schools,
- 4 Secondary Schools
- 0 Special Schools

Guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) within the “Scheme for Financing Schools” outlines at 6.2 the following framework that local authorities should adopt regarding surplus school balances

*“The scheme [the LA Scheme for Financing] may contain a mechanism to clawback excess surplus balances.*

*Any mechanism should have regard to the principle that schools should be moving towards greater autonomy, should not be constrained from making early efficiencies to support their medium-term budgeting in a tighter financial climate, and should not be burdened by bureaucracy.*

*The mechanism should, therefore, be focused on only those schools which have built up significant excessive uncommitted balances or where some level of redistribution would support improved provision across a local area.”*

The full details of Schools balances are shown in **Appendix 3**. These figures remain provisional at this stage and the Local Authority are working with schools to resolve some outstanding queries.

### **Deficits**

There were 11 schools in deficit at the end of 2022-23 (2 nursery schools, 6 primary schools and 3 special schools), in comparison to 7 at the end of 2021-22.

- 2 schools (both secondary) went from deficit to surplus.
- 1 school reduced their deficit
- 3 schools increased their deficit
- 7 schools previously in surplus are now in a deficit (including one school which merged with a school previously in deficit)

The deficits in total amounted to £1.21m and ranged from between £0.02m to £0.22m. Schools with deficits are expected to achieve a balanced budget within 3 years.

The Local Authority has robust monitoring requirements and offers ongoing support for schools that fall into deficit. All schools were required to submit a 3 year plan in May 2023 which will be reviewed, risk assessed and where appropriate follow up conversations held with school leaders. The Local Authority will once again request an in-year budget monitoring return from all maintained schools in the autumn term and report an in year forecast position to Forum in January 2024.

### **3.3 Clawback of Excess Surplus Balances**

Last year Schools Forum supported a decision to apply the Balance Control Mechanism (BCM) to 2021-22 excess balances. Schools with excess balances and an increase in surplus between 2019-20 and 2020-21 and between 2020-21 and 2021-22 were considered for clawback at the following incremental levels:

Nursery, Primary and Special Schools:

- 5% on surpluses between 9% to 12%

- 10% on surpluses between 12% to 20%
- 15% on surpluses more than 20%

#### Secondary Schools:

- 5% on surpluses between 6% to 9%
- 10% on surpluses between 9% to 17%
- 15% on surpluses of more than 17%

For example, if a Primary school had a balance of 30%, the amount between 9% and 12% attracts a 5% clawback, between 12% and 20% a 10% clawback, and the amount above 20% a 15% clawback.

This resulted in 4 Schools being subject to clawback totalling £0.023m. The clawbacks ranged from £1.3k to £12.6k. Of those 4 schools subject to a clawback, all continued to have excess balances at the end of 2022-23, however 3 reduced their balance in 2022-23 and would no longer be subject to clawback under the proposed BCM.

The Balance Control Mechanism methodology applied to 2021-22 balances was maintained in the 2022-23 Scheme for Financing Schools. There would potentially be 5 schools (3 primary, 2 high) subject to a clawback on 2022-23 balances, using the 3 year review period, only one of whom experienced a clawback last year. **Appendix 4** sets out an illustration of the provisional clawback values for 2022-23.

School Forum members are asked to consider:

- Option 1 - Apply a clawback mechanism agreeing that the resultant clawback fund can be used to support high needs pressures and other potential pressures related to future school organisation changes. Use the same BCM as the previous year, considering only those schools who have increased excessive balances over a 3-year period (2 consecutive years, 2020-21 to 2022-23) resulting in up to £0.316 clawback. This is the option the Local Authority recommended that Forum agree.
- Option 2 - No clawback of excess balances

Currently the figures in the clawback illustration are based on total outturn balances, and have not yet been adjusted for spend under the accrual limit or ring fenced grants. If the BCM is applied, Schools Accountancy will be required to undertake the following tasks prior to processing of the clawback:

- Review the School Balance Forms.
- Ensure projects on the form if capital in nature are using the school's devolved capital balances before applying the revenue balance.
- Ensure schools earmarked revenue contributions to capital schemes led on by the council are deducted from balances subject to clawback, and these contributions are held in a central reserve.
- Ensure the spend under the accrual limit is taken into account and ones with committed orders have been spent.

This may reduce the value of any clawbacks and may mean that some of the schools listed in Appendix 4 are subsequently not subject to clawback or there is agreement to hold the amount clawed back for contributions to capital schemes.

Currently the Balance Control Mechanism uses a three year review period and therefore schools with significant excess balances that had reduced over one or both of the past two financial years would not currently be considered for clawback. Forum members agreed at the May 2023 meeting that they would like officers to include alternative approaches to the mechanism in the Autumn 2023 school funding consultation. If schools were minded to make any changes to the Balance Control Mechanism methodology, Forum would need agree these at the April 2024 Forum meeting as part of agreeing the 2024-25 Scheme for Financing Schools.

### **3.4 National Funding Formula (NFF)**

The government published their [response](#) to the 'Implementing the direct national funding formula' consultation in April 2023.

The consultation included proposals on reforms of two elements of funding, which will be implemented in advance of the full introduction of the direct NFF – split sites and growth and falling rolls funding. The consultation response confirms that changes to both factors will go ahead for 2024-25.

- **Introduce a national split sites factor.** The NFF will determine funding for schools with split sites using a basic eligibility element and a distance eligibility element. The exact design of the formula will be confirmed in July 2023.
- **Place further requirements on how local authorities can operate their growth and falling rolls funding.** The government will introduce a set of minimum standards for the allocation of growth funding by local authorities to improve consistency and predictability. They will also revise the NFF's current growth allocation methodology to allocate funding to local authorities on the basis of both growth and falling rolls and will work with stakeholders over the coming months to refine the standard criteria that will be used to fund schools with significant increases in pupil numbers or falling rolls from 2024-25.

The consultation also covered the **interaction between funding for mainstream schools and funding for high needs** and the government response confirms how two key elements of this interaction will be managed under the direct NFF

- Continued flexibility to transfer funding to high needs budgets, with a corresponding adjustment to mainstream schools' funding allocations, through an application process to the Secretary of State.
- Introduce a national approach to calculating schools' indicative SEND budgets and consult further on the design and operation of this approach, including aligning with the reforms in the Government's SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan. This will replace the notional SEN budgets that local authorities currently calculate within their local formula.

### **3.5 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding decisions to be made for 2024-25**

The Local Authority will formally consult schools in Autumn 2023 on funding arrangements for the following financial year across all blocks of the DSG. The Forum is asked to note the update on the implementation the National Funding Formula and consider some key decisions in relation to the local formula for 2024-25 set out below.

#### **Schools Block Funding Formula Factors**

Ealing's funding continued to substantially mirror the the NFF in 2023-24, with some minor adjustments to the AWPU rates (-0.25%) and the FSM6 and prior attainment factors (the maximum allowable -2.5%) for affordability.

#### **Premises**

Existing arrangements for the PFI premises factor are likely to remain in place for 2024-25 based on historic commitments plus inflation. Split sites funding will change to being allocated nationally on the basis of a formula factor made up of a 'basic eligibility' element and a 'distance eligibility' element from 2024-25.

#### **Growth and Falling Roll Funding**

In 2019-20, pupil growth moved to a formulaic basis. Ealing saw a reduction in funding from £3.7m to £1.8m over 3 years to national formula funding levels based on current population data. The growth fund remained at £1.8m in 2023-24. In 2024-25, the government have confirmed they will revise the current growth allocation methodology to allocate funding on the basis of both growth and falling rolls and will expand the use of both growth and falling roll funding to allow local authorities to fund the revenue costs associated with repurposing or reducing school places (for example to create SEND Units or additionally resourced provision). They will also introduce minimum requirements for how much growth funding should be provided in circumstances where a school has agreed with the Local Authority to host an additional class to meet basic need. The Local Authority will consult schools on actions to meet any shortfall in funding, these may include retaining current growth fund rules or reducing allocations (where they are above the minimum requirement), so they are met within the funding available.

#### **Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)**

All Ealing schools received protection to their per pupil funding through a 0% MFG in 2023-24. This was the minimum allowable. Schools and the Forum will be asked to consider the level of minimum funding guarantee for 2024-25. The Local Authority will consult schools on these arrangements in the autumn term.

The table below sets out some of the key activities that will need to be undertaken.

**Table 1: Indicative DfE and ESFA updates and Local Authority actions for the DSG 2024-25**

<b>SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA</b>	
<b>DfE and ESFA:</b>	
Unit values for formula factors confirmed, and operational guidance	July and throughout Autumn
Confirmation of indicative grant value	December
<b>Local Authority actions:</b>	
Consult Schools on Funding arrangements	September to October
Model the impact of applying the national funding formula (and any updates to that formula).	October
Schools Forum early decisions (where possible) 2024-25	November
Schools Forum and LA final decision making for 2024-25	January

### **Schools and Central Services Blocks**

In addition to the schools funding formula consultation, the Forum is required to vote and approve a range of de-delegated and central budgets line by line at its meeting in either November 2023 or January 2024. To assist in their planning the Local Authority are seeking feedback on whether the Forum is minded to continue to fund these service budgets (**Appendix 5**):

- Education Functions
- De-Delegation
- Central Schools Block and Retained Duties

### Historic Commitments

At the November meeting it was reported that the historic commitments grant allocation would reduce by a further 20% in 2023-24 from £0.599m to £0.479m, a reduction of £0.12m. A similar 20% decrease in funding in 2024-25 would reduce this to £0.383m. Existing 2023-24 budgets are set out below.

**Table 2: Historical Commitment Budget 2023-24:**

<b>Historical Commitments 2023-24</b>	<b>£m</b>
Contribution to Supportive Action for Families in Ealing (SAFE)	0.175
Parenting Service	0.059
Contribution to LAC Teaching Service	0.029
Transfer to High Needs	0.216
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.479</b>

### **3.6 Early Years Block**

The national Early Years Funding Formula was introduced in April 2017. The funding arrangements for 2023-24 guiding the structure of the formula remain unchanged. The maximum a Local Authority will be able to retain for central spend remains at 5%.

Ealing increased its local funding rate from £4.63 to £4.73 for all providers of 3–4-year-old provision in 2023-24. Ealing has also seen an increase in April 2023 to its 2-year-old funding entitlement from £6.29 per hour to £6.92 which has been passed onto providers in full.

In addition to this there have been increases to the Disability Access Funding (DAF) for children in receipt of living allowance, £828 being rewarded to the setting per year to support children's needs, and an increase to Early Years Pupil Premium to £353 per year, which are both passed onto providers in full.

Early summer headcounts are seeing small increases of 7.6% to headcount from the Spring term, which is expected, this is an increase compared to this point last year where the increase was at 5%. The Local Authority will continue to monitor over the remaining term and into the Autumn term.

A contingency for 2023-24 has been retained at £0.773m, to ensure adequate funding is in place to cope with any in year headcount changes. Following the constant challenges of lockdowns and difficulties Covid-19 have presented over recent years there continues to be larger than usual changes in headcount.

Local Authority data collections have continued to reflect a narrowing in gap of where provision is being accessed with latest collections showing take up at 53% at state funded nursery schools and classes and 47% now taking up provision in private voluntary and independent provision. Take up of the 30-hour offer has continued to grow, data reflects 64% of this being taken up in PVI settings and 36% in state funded nursery schools and classes.

Updates to the early years funding allocations from the DfE will be published late in the summer term. The Local Authority are expecting further updates to funding allocations based on the new childcare reforms announced during the Chancellor Spring budget. Forum will be updated as this occurs.

### **3.7 High needs Block**

The overall deficit in the high needs block after 2022-23 is £0.570m. Deficits in the DSG are carried forward to the following financial year and the Local Authority is responsible for working with schools and other stakeholders to manage spending and reduce the deficit. The Local Authority will provide an update to Forum on the forecast high needs block overspend for 2023-24 in November.

At the May 2023 meeting, the Local Authority provided Forum with information about current and projected demand for SEND provision. The high needs block is largely passed through to providers. As reported to the Forum in April, the DfE has partly recognised this pressure by providing an additional £6.7m grant in 2023-24, including additional pressures funding of £3.2m. Indications are that future growth in funding will be below the levels seen in recent times, with the DfE advising authorities in the safety valve programme to use an assumption of a 3% for future years, although actual funding for all LAs will be decided as part of the usual annual process of setting allocations.



The Local Authority recommends the Forum note the forecasted growth in demand and the work the Local Authority is doing to ensure sufficiency of places (as outlined in the May report) and the deficit on the High Needs Block and provide feedback on whether Forum is minded to continue the existing 0.5% transfer (£1.46m in 2023-24) from the school's block to the High Needs Block in 2024-25 should this continue to be allowable under the funding arrangements.

### **3.8 DSG Reserves 2022-23**

**Table 4**

<b>DSG Reserves 2022-23</b>	<b>Opening £m</b>	<b>In year over / under spend</b>	<b>Use of Reserves £m</b>	<b>Closing £m</b>
High Need Block	1.147	(0.577)	0.000	0.570
Early Years Block	(0.563)	(1.031)	0.000	(1.594)
Schools Block	(1.365)	0.031	1.013	(0.321)
<b>Total Overall DSG Reserve (+ deficit / - surplus) as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>(0.781)</b>	<b>(1.577)</b>	<b>1.013</b>	<b>(1.345)</b>

The high needs deficit has been reduced by £0.577m in 2022-23 from £1.147m to £0.570m. This position includes the £2.66m additional government high needs funding and 0.5% (£1.46m) transfer from the schools block to the high needs block, it does not account for a small number of on ongoing funding negotiations with state funded specialist providers.

High needs deficits are to be recovered (repaid) over a planned period in line with a recovery plan, building on the work of the All Age Disability Programme. This will continue to require the close attention of the Local Authority and Schools Forum.

The surplus on the Schools Block of £0.321m is largely related to historic growth fund and unused contingencies. As reported and agreed by the Forum in July 2022 to be applied to commitments against high needs, growth fund and other pressures related to future school organisation changes. The reserve has been used for the growth fund and school organisation changes, it was not necessary to apply to high needs. The balance includes an amount (£0.023m) clawed back from maintained schools through the implementation of the Balance Control Mechanism. Forum agreed in July 2022 that this would be used to support high needs pressures and other potential pressures related to future school organisation changes.

While the growth fund historically has had some headroom, in 2022-23 and forecasted 2023-24 and 2024-25 commitments are greater than the level of grant funding available. This is the result of both the reduction in grant funding and a high number of in year applications across all high school year groups, as well as increases in levels of demand in Ealing and Acton at primary. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to offer a school place within 4 weeks and a number of schools have delivered, or been approached to deliver, bulge classes to meet basic need.

Underspends on the Early Years Block of £1.594m includes £0.563m committed to by schools forum in 2021-22 to reduce the cumulative high needs deficit starting at £0.570m in 2023-24, and includes the anticipated clawback following the most recent headcount and flow from unused contingencies following uncertainty over grant allocations due to the ESFAs approach to retrospectively adjusting Local Authority grants based on census information and fluctuations in numbers. The reserve also The early years funding formula for 2024-25 will be reviewed and consulted on in the Autumn 2023.

Both underspends have been carried over to the 2023-24 financial year.

The Forum is asked to consider and agree the Local Authority recommendation to retain DSG reserve underspends in the Early Years and Schools Blocks for overspend pressures in the High Needs (HN) Block, commitments against the growth fund across primary and high schools, and other pressures related to future school organisation changes.

#### 4. Financial

In 2022-23 the DSG underspent by £0.564m (before use of reserves), the table below outlines the variances in outturn by DSG block

**Table 5: 2022-23 DSG Outturn**

DSG	DSG Allocation £m	Outturn £m	Variance to Budget £m
Schools Block	189.283	190.327	1.044
CSS Block	2.565	2.565	-
Early Years Block	26.964	25.933	(1.031)
High Needs Block	72.030	71.453	(0.577)
<b>Total Underspend 2022-23</b>	<b>290.842</b>	<b>290.280</b>	<b>(0.564)</b>
Use of Reserves			(0.781)
DSG balance after reserves			(1.345)
Accruals Adjustment			0.000
DSG balance after reserves and accruals adjustment			(1.345)

Should the Local Authority have an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2023 to 2024 financial year, or a DSG surplus that has substantially reduced during the year, they will be required to co-operate with the Department for Education (DfE). In particular, the Local Authority would need to:

1. Provide information as and when requested by the department about its plans for managing its DSG account in the 2024 to 2025 financial year and subsequently.
2. Provide information as and when requested by the department about pressures and potential savings on its high needs budget.
3. Meet with officials of the department as and when they request to discuss the Local Authority's plans and financial situation.

4. Keep the schools Forum regularly updated about the Local Authority's DSG account and plans for handling it, including high needs pressures and potential savings.

The Secretary of State reserves the right to impose more specific conditions of grant on individual local authorities that have an overall deficit on their DSG account, where he/she believes that they are not taking sufficient action to address the situation.

## **5. Legal**

The Education Act 2002 is the principal statute for school funding. Regulations setting out the arrangements for school funding are made under s. 14 of that Act. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, s 47A, requires the Council to set up a Schools Forum body representing the governing bodies and head teachers of schools maintained by the authority.

The Schools Forum Regulations 2012, SI 2012/2261, School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2021, SI 2021/59 and the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2022, SI 2022/27 set out the matters on which the Council must consult the Schools Forum or seek the approval of the Schools Forum or the approval of the Secretary of State.

Under the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015 the Council is required to consult the Schools Forum, its maintained schools and early years providers (where affected) on its proposed formulae for determining budget shares for the forthcoming year.

### **Consultative Role**

- i. To respond to consultation by the Local Authority on changes to the formula for determination of school budget shares. (Only school members, academy members and members representing early years, private, voluntary and independent providers can vote on this.),
- ii. On the terms of any proposed contract for supplies or services paid out of the authority's schools budget where the estimated value of the proposed contract is more than the relevant threshold at least one month prior to invitations to tender,
- iii. in respect of the authority's functions relating to the schools budget in connection with arrangements for the education of pupils with special educational needs, arrangements for the use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, arrangements for early years provision and administrative arrangements for the allocation of central government grants paid to schools via the authority (Consultation must be at least annually),
- iv. Any other matters concerning the funding of schools as the authority sees fit.

The Forum has the responsibility of informing the governing bodies of all schools maintained by the authority of the results of consultations carried out by the authority

### **Decision making role**

The areas on which the Forum makes decisions on Local Authority proposals are set out by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. In each of these cases, the Local Authority can appeal to the Secretary of State if the Schools Forum rejects its proposal.

A Local Authority may also apply to the Secretary of State for authorisation to make a number of alternative arrangements including to deduct from its schools budget any expenditure falling outside the classes of expenditure set out in Schedule 2 of the 2021 Regulations, to alter the threshold below which schools will be expected to meet the additional costs of pupils with SEN from its budget share, to increase the amount deducted for Central Services beyond what was agreed in the previous funding period and to make variations to the minimum funding guarantee.

### **Voting requirements**

All members are entitled to vote on all matters put to a vote with the exceptions set out above, i.e. consultation on changes to the Formula and de-delegation of services

### **Publications**

In July 2022 the Education and Skills Funding Agency published 'Schools revenue funding 2023 to 2024: [Operational guide](#)'.

In March 2021 the Education and Skills Funding Agency published the updated '[Schools Forum operational and good practice guide](#)'.

### **Implications of the Equality Act 2010**

Under s85 of the Act the responsible body (and this means for maintained schools the Local Authority and the Governing Body) must not discriminate against a pupil because of a 'protected characteristic':

- a) in the way it provides education for the pupil
- b) in the way it affords the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service
- c) by not providing education for the pupil
- d) by not affording the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service
- e) by excluding the pupil from the school
- f) by subjecting the pupil to any other detriment

The protected characteristics for the schools provisions are disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

As public bodies schools and local authorities also have separate duties under S149 the Equality Act 2010. In summary, those subject to the S149 must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

## **6. Value For Money**

This report is concerned with allocating funding between schools.

## **7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal**

None required.

## **8. Risk Management**

This report provides information for schools about the direction of travel in the medium term on budgets and should help them consider the longer-term implications of the changes. In the short term, the MFG will moderate the impact of any changes in funding for individual schools.

## **9. Community Safety**

None.

## **10. Links to the 3 Key Priorities for the Borough**

The decisions are linked to the 'Fighting inequality priority.

## **11. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion**

An equalities assessment will be undertaken in the autumn following consultation on the schools funding formula.

## **12. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:**

None.

## **13. Property and Assets**

None.

**14. Any other implications:**

None.

**15. Consultation**

The Forum, individual schools and others have been consulted on funding arrangements, and will be consulted in Autumn 2023 for the financial year 2024-25.

**16. Timetable for Implementation**

Use of Reserves: June 2023 for 2023-24 financial year. Schools funding agreements and decision-making: January 2024 for 2024-25 financial year

**17. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Schools Forum update from Assistant Director Audit and Investigation

Appendix 2: Extract from Scheme for Financing Schools 2023-24 – Surplus Balances

Appendix 3: Outturn Balances for Ealing Schools (Excl Academies) 2022-23 (provisional)

Appendix 4: Illustration of excessive balances clawback on 2022-23 balances (provisional)

Appendix 5: Centrally Retained and de-delegated budgets 2023-24

**18. Background Information**

School Forum Report May 2023

Education and Skills Funding, Schools Forum Operational and good practice guide

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/971710/Schools Forum operational and good practice guide amended March 2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/971710/Schools_Forum_operational_and_good_practice_guide_amended_March_2021.pdf)

## Consultation (Mandatory)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent to consultee	Date response received	Comments appear in paragraph:
<b>Internal</b>				
Cllr Kamaljit Nagpal	Cabinet Member for A Fairer Start	26.05.23		
Robert South	Strategic Director Childrens Services	26.05.23		
Julie Lewis	Director Learning Standards and Schools Partnerships	26.05.23		
Tamara Quinn	AD Planning, Resources and Service Development	26.05.23	26.05.23	Throughout
Madhu Bhachu	Acting AD ESCAN, SEND and Inclusion	26.05.23	01.06.23	3.7
Angie Dennison	Acting AD Early Help and Prevention	26.05.23	31.05.23	3.6
Kathleen Ennis	Principal Lawyer (Housing and Social Care)	26.05.23	12.06.23	Throught
Russell Dyer	AD Accountancy	26.05.23	12.06.23	3.8, 4
Mark Nelson	Schools HR	26.05.23		

## Report History

<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Urgency item?</b>
Report no.:	Kim Price, Planning and Resources Strategic Lead
	<a href="mailto:kprice@ealing.gov.uk">kprice@ealing.gov.uk</a> 020 8825 8698