

Report to Hartlepool Schools' Forum 15 February 2023
From Amanda Whitehead – Assistant Director Education

Item 7: Schools Block Budgets Update 2023/24

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide updated information on the 2023/24 Schools Block funding issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on 16 December 2022.
- 1.2 ESFA have provided updated funding information that reflects the October 2022 school census and pupil characteristics.

2. Background

- 2.1 Consultation on setting individual school budgets (ISBs) took place with Schools' Forum during September to early December 2022. These discussions were on the basis of the indicative NFF published in July 2022.
- 2.2 Forum will recall that additional modelling was performed for this budget year with the aim of anticipating the funding position before the release of the updated allocation by ESFA. This additional modelling suggested that a cap would be needed in order for the maximum Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) of 0.5% to be affordable.
- 2.3 At their meeting on 18 November 2022, Schools' Forum voted in favour of applying the maximum possible MFG, with an appropriate cap. Budget estimates suggested that a cap in the region of 3.1% would be required.
- 2.4 Schools' Forum agreed to the transfer of £0.139m from the Central School Services Block (CSSB) to the Schools Block.

3. Schools Block Funding 2023/24

- 3.1 The following table shows the updated Hartlepool schools block allocation of £76.531m for 2023/24 based on October 2022 census numbers. This allocation includes growth funding which ESFA have confirmed is £0.186m for 2023/24.

Schools Block	Pupil Numbers (Oct 2022)	2023/24 Funding (£m)
Primary	7,581	38.638
Secondary	5,635	37.086
Premises		0.621
Growth		0.186
NFF Schools Block 2023/24		76.531
NFF Schools Block 2022/23, including supplementary grant		74.916
Funding increase		4.354
Percentage increase in funding		5.49%

- 3.2 Primary pupil numbers reduced from 7,654 to 7,581 between the October 2021 and October 2022 census (a reduction of 73). Secondary pupil numbers increased from 5,604 to 5,635 (an increase of 31).
- 3.3 The formula calculation based on updated pupil numbers and characteristics for the October 2022 census required a cap of 3.29% to fund the 0.5% maximum MFG. This is a slightly improved position from the estimated cap of 3.1%.
- 3.4 The Council submitted the Hartlepool formula using the government's Authority Pro-Forma Tool (APT) for the statutory deadline of 20 January 2023. ESFA are in the process of review and validation before giving their final sign off for 2023/24 school budgets.
- 3.5 Whilst completing the APT, it was recognised that 2 Hartlepool schools qualified for funding against the sparsity factor (total funding of £7k across the 2 schools). In the national move towards compliance with the hard formula, this factor is mandatory. Although minimal in cost, this is a new factor within the Hartlepool formula and is likely to feature in each year's budget allocation from 2023/24 onwards.
- 3.6 Appendix A shows the 2023/24 schools block funding at an individual school level once the block transfer and Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) plus cap have been applied. Appendix A excludes growth funding.
- 3.7 The final columns in Appendix A show the change in ISBs from 2022/23 to 2023/24 as both a monetary value and percentage.

4. **Block Transfers**

- 4.1 Updated CSSB funding of £0.711m for 2023/24 (£0.731m in 2022/23) has been confirmed based on October 2022 census numbers.
- 4.2 At their meeting on 18 November 2022, Schools' Forum agreed to fund the elements amounting to £0.572m shown in the table below and for the balance of CSSB funding (£0.139m) to be transferred to the schools block for 2023/24.

Historic Commitments		£m
Licenses		0.067
Termination of Employment costs		0.031
	Total	0.098
Ongoing Responsibilities		£m
Retained Education Services		0.215
Admissions		0.146
Copyright licences		0.074
Servicing Schools Forum		0.039
	Total	0.474
Grand Total		0.572

5. Supplementary Funding 2023/24

- 5.1 Schools received a separate supplementary grant in 2022/23 to fund cost pressures, including energy increases. The separate grant has been mainstreamed into the NFF for 2023/24 onwards.
- 5.2 On 16 December, 2022, ESFA announced an additional grant – the Maintained Schools Additional Grant (MSAG). For 2023/24 this funding sits outside of the Schools Block and is therefore not included in this report.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Forum is recommended to note the updated schools block funding for 2023/24 outlined in this report and illustrated at an individual school level on appendix A.

APPENDIX A: Updated Individual School Budgets 2023/24

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
School Reference	MPPF Test Result	2023/24 Pre MFG Budget (Excl ESG and De-Del)	MFG 0.50%	Cap	2023/24 Post MFG Budget	2022/23 post MFG Budget (incl supplementary grant)	Budget Increase +£ / Decrease (£)	Budget Increase +% / Decrease (%)	Per Pupil Increase %
1	PASS	1,707,110	0	(17,195)	1,689,915	1,709,377	(19,462)	(1.14%)	3.29%
2	PASS	802,822	0	(12,416)	790,406	764,891	25,515	3.34%	3.29%
3	PASS	8,410,503	0	0	8,410,503	8,099,980	310,523	3.83%	3.27%
4	PASS	7,080,784	0	0	7,080,784	6,960,529	120,255	1.73%	3.26%
5	PASS	8,674,819	0	(3,441)	8,671,378	8,373,663	297,715	3.56%	3.29%
6	PASS	946,448	12,246	0	958,694	946,779	11,915	1.26%	0.50%
7	PASS	1,436,987	0	(323)	1,436,664	1,440,379	(3,715)	(0.26%)	3.29%
8	PASS	460,482	46,950	0	507,432	505,583	1,849	0.37%	0.50%
9	PASS	1,521,016	0	0	1,521,016	1,473,365	47,651	3.23%	2.87%
10	FAIL	1,349,208	0	0	1,349,208	1,324,365	24,843	1.88%	0.75%
11	PASS	2,126,543	0	0	2,126,543	2,075,010	51,534	2.48%	3.20%
12	PASS	1,526,953	0	0	1,526,953	1,417,097	109,856	7.75%	2.27%
13	PASS	2,004,310	0	0	2,004,310	1,990,765	13,545	0.68%	1.86%
14	PASS	1,589,081	0	(4,260)	1,584,821	1,539,695	45,126	2.93%	3.29%
15	PASS	1,539,024	0	0	1,539,024	1,581,104	(42,080)	(2.66%)	2.52%
16	PASS	1,072,689	0	0	1,072,689	1,070,479	2,210	0.21%	1.85%
17	PASS	495,672	57,025	0	552,697	550,595	2,101	0.38%	0.50%
18	PASS	8,281,801	0	0	8,281,801	7,937,218	344,583	4.34%	1.75%
19	PASS	4,891,519	0	0	4,891,519	4,800,467	91,052	1.90%	3.01%
20	PASS	1,030,274	0	(6,721)	1,023,553	1,003,888	19,665	1.96%	3.29%
21	PASS	1,381,334	0	(1,902)	1,379,432	1,318,405	61,027	4.63%	3.29%
22	PASS	639,371	0	(9,204)	630,167	590,800	39,368	6.66%	3.29%
23	PASS	1,122,311	0	(3,272)	1,119,039	1,044,526	74,513	7.13%	3.29%
24	PASS	497,042	51,775	0	548,817	514,539	34,278	6.66%	0.50%
25	PASS	1,821,609	0	(6,591)	1,815,018	1,732,931	82,087	4.74%	3.29%
26	PASS	1,808,708	0	(17,828)	1,790,880	1,734,098	56,781	3.27%	3.29%
27	PASS	1,219,723	0	(1,251)	1,218,472	1,171,470	47,002	4.01%	3.29%
28	PASS	1,518,475	0	0	1,518,475	1,593,818	(75,343)	(4.73%)	0.99%
29	PASS	1,782,948	0	0	1,782,948	1,784,945	(1,997)	(0.11%)	2.19%
30	PASS	1,216,620	0	(2,669)	1,213,952	1,241,651	(27,699)	(2.23%)	3.29%
31	PASS	2,177,326	0	(26,085)	2,151,241	2,075,972	75,269	3.63%	3.29%
32	PASS	1,788,358	0	0	1,788,358	1,767,859	20,499	1.16%	1.28%
33	PASS	1,317,669	0	(12,835)	1,304,835	1,363,917	(59,083)	(4.33%)	3.29%
34	PASS	614,812	2,914	0	617,726	664,125	(46,399)	(6.99%)	0.50%
35	PASS	588,656	0	(4,821)	583,835	625,521	(41,686)	(6.66%)	3.29%
TOTAL		76,443,009	170,909	(130,813)	76,483,106	74,789,804	1,693,302		