
SCHOOLS' FORUM

Tuesday 9 December 2025 – 10 am

**Conference Hall,
Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning,
Brierton Lane**

A G E N D A

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|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | Apologies | <i>Chair</i> |
| 2. | Minutes from Schools' Forum meeting on 14 October 2025 and Matters Arising | <i>Chair</i> |
| 3. | High Needs Block Projected Outturn 2025/26 (<i>For Information</i>) | <i>Amanda Whitehead</i> |
| 4. | Dedicated Schools Grant 2026/27 Decision Timeline (<i>For Information</i>) | <i>Alison Sutherland</i> |
| 5. | School Budget Shares 2026/27 (<i>For Information</i>) | <i>Amanda Whitehead</i> |
| 6. | Permanently Excluded Pupils (PEXs) (<i>Standing Item</i>) | <i>Emma Rutherford</i> |

Date and Time of Next Forum Meeting –
Monday 12 January 2026, 10 am at the CETL

Schools' Forum Meeting

14th October 2025

Attendees:

Members

Mark Tilling (MT) (Maintained Secondary) (Chair)
 Tim Blades (TB) (Maintained Governors)
 John Hardy (JH) (Academy Primary)
 David Leane (DL) (Diocese RC)
 Marcus Newing (MN) (Academy Primary)
 Phil Pritchard (PP) (Academy Primary)
 Toni Ray (TR) (PVI)
 Andy Rogers (AR) (Academy Secondary)
 Sue Sharpe (SS) (Academy Primary)
 David Turner (DT) (Primary)
 Lee Walker (LW) (Academy Primary)
 Zoe Westley (ZW) Academy Special
 Vicki Wilson (VW) (Diocese C of E)

Local Authority Officers

Kelly Armstrong (KA)
 (Children's Commissioning)
 Claire Mcpartlin (CM)
 (Administrator)
 Sandra Shears (SSh)
 (Children's Finance)
 Fiona Stobbs (FS) (Inclusive
 Learning and SEND)
 Jane Watt (JWa) (Children's
 Finance)

Also Present

Peter Gray (PG) (Independent Consultant) – *Item 3 only*

Agenda Item		Action
1	Apologies - Carole Bradley (Academy Primary) Gillian Hood (Academy Primary) Caroline Read (Academy Primary) Linda Richardson (Early Years PVI) Emma Rutherford (Horizon) Leanne Yates (Academy Primary) Amanda Whitehead, Assistant Director	
2	Minutes of the Schools' Forum on 16th September 2025 and Matters Arising The minutes of Schools' Forum on 16 th September 2025 were approved. Permanently Excluded Pupils (PEX): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 30 pupils with named places at the Free School, three assessment places were due to start in November 2025. SEND AP Change Programme Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FS had written to each cluster around which areas funding could be bid for, currently waiting for bids to be received. 	

3	<p>SEND Cluster Model</p> <p>The report provided an update to Schools' Forum regarding the SEND Cluster Model.</p> <p>An Independent Consultant, Peter Gray (PG), had undertaken a review of the High Needs Block (HNB) in 2022/2023 which had then fed into the SEND Cluster Model. SEND Clusters began working together in January 2024 meeting on a half termly basis. The process had been developed over time with a staged approach to implementation. From September 2025 two SENDCO's attended clusters to provide robust challenge and scrutiny to funding requests and ensure consistency across the clusters.</p> <p>PG was asked to review the Cluster Model and provide an independent review of advice and guidance for next steps. PG was in attendance at the meeting for this item and provided a presentation to Forum. The presentation detailed several themes including the emerging government policy, the Cluster Model and Hartlepool as a whole.</p> <p>Next steps included a local authority officer being assigned to each cluster to provide additional support and the establishment of a secondary network alongside the primary clusters.</p> <p>Forum were asked to agree for cluster funding sheets to be shared openly without anonymised data with the exception of children's names.</p> <p>Following a lengthy discussion the following points of clarity were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In other Local Authority areas, the cluster groups consist of approximately 8-10 members, this allows for active discussion and higher levels of supportiveness. • Cluster Models must be aware of the needs of the children. • The Cluster Model would not be a funding panel; the groups would share good practice with themes of discussion. • Hartlepool would not try to reduce EHCP numbers within the town. • Concerns once funding for Cluster Models comes to an end had been fed back to the Department for Education (DfE). <p>MT raised concerns around the secondary SENCO attending a secondary network as well as the primary clusters. This would impact on staff time and pupil support. It was agreed to discuss this further with Head Teachers not in attendance at Forum and SENDCO outside of this meeting.</p> <p>MT highlighted within the cluster funding sheets, pupils could be identifiable in schools with low numbers of EHCP. FS reassured Forum the data included within the sheets would only be viewed by the SENDCO.</p> <p>It was noted it would be beneficial for SENDCOs to visit schools to get an understanding of the context in each school rather than focusing on the</p>	FS

	<p>numbers of SEND as this could lead to a disadvantage to smaller schools and rural schools in particular.</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Agree for cluster funding sheets to be shared openly; Forum voted to approve (12 in favour, 1 abstention, none against) ii) Consider the concept of cluster budget setting; Forum unanimously agreed in principle however proposed to defer until the direction of the new Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services is realised to allow for a cohesive vision moving forward. 	
4	<p>Special School Cost Model Update and Proposals AY 2025-26</p> <p>The report outlined the proposals for the funding of Springwell and Catcote Special Schools from September 2025.</p> <p>JWa outlined the timeline for the Special Schools Cost Model which was outlined at Appendix-A.</p> <p>The proposed top-up rates for Springwell School AY 2025/26 were £1,954,625. Springwell School had requested several items to be approved as growth including net cost of pay charges and revenue contribution to capital schemes. The total of the requests were at £179,000.</p> <p>The proposed top-up rates for Catcote Academy AY 2025/26 were £3,570,747. Catcote Academy had requested several items to be approved as growth including improvements to the car park and the refurbishment of a Life Skills Room. The total of the requests from school were at £518,000. Owing to the significant increase in the request the Local Authority had considered what could be re-prioritised. Following this the Local Authority proposed £453,000 for Catcote Academy's growth request which Forum were asked to consider.</p> <p>If agreed by Forum, both requests would sit outside of the allowed 3% increase as previously agreed by Children's Services Committee.</p> <p>ZW advised the car park within Catcote Academy had been causing issues for both schools in terms of safety. The car park had not been designed for the numbers of pupils that currently attend. Due to service cuts, there were less pupils travelling to and from school via school transport and an increase in pupils travelling with parents. In addition, the Life Skills Room was part of the curriculum and provided a high level of support to pupils moving into independent living and employment. SSh highlighted that the Local Authorities Highways Inspector had advised the amount requested and the plans for car park improvements would not be sufficient to make the level of change required.</p>	

	<p>MT queried whether the planned £0.015m for the Life Skills Room was appropriate to reject. SSh commented that Catcote Academy was underspent and could therefore bid for funding to support projects such as the Life Skills Room. ZW advised several classrooms within school require improvements and new doors are required at the entrance therefore funding from the underspent budget would be likely allocated to those areas.</p> <p>ZW commented that Springwell School and Catcote Academy do not have access to SIF funding, or School Condition capital and were unable to bid for requests in the same way as other schools within the town. Owing to the increase in scrutiny around cost models, workload had been increased for several staff and schools are conscious of staff wellbeing.</p> <p>JH commended both schools for continuing to have an underspend each year.</p> <p>Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Forum noted the contents of the report. ii) Forum unanimously approved the growth proposal for Springwell School. iii) Forum unanimously approved the growth proposal for Catcote Academy based on the Local Authorities calculations on the proviso that the Academy were able to bid for improvements removed from the request by the Local Authority from the underspend. 	
5	<p>Permanently Excluded Pupils (PEXs) – standing item</p> <p>Six pupils had been permanently excluded since the beginning of term in September 2025. Of these six, one child was out of area, and one had been rescinded leaving the total number at four. This number was a reduction on previous years.</p> <p>There were 92 children on roll at Horizon and ARPs.</p> <p>JH thanked secondary schools for their work in the reduction of PEX numbers.</p>	
6	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Meeting Closed: 11:45 am.</p>	
7	<p>Date and Time of Next Forum Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 25 November 2025, 10 am, CETL</p>	

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LOG

Meeting	Description	Owner
14/10/25	MT raised concerns around the secondary SENCO attending a secondary network as well as the primary clusters. This would impact on staff time and pupil support. It was agreed to discuss this further with Head Teachers not in attendance at Forum and SENDCO outside of this meeting.	FS

Financial Year 2024/25: Children's Services Committee – Log of Schools' Forum
Recommendations and Committee Decisions

Last Updated: 6 December 2024

Committee Date	Report	Recommendation and Decision Details
19/11/24	Dedicated Schools Grant (Former Education Services Grant rate per pupil) – Disapplication Request	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agreed the 2025/26 funding rate at £60 per pupil/place. b) Agreed to submit the disapplication request to the Secretary of State to set the Education Services General Duties rate at £60 per pupil/place for 2025/26. c) Noted this will be the ninth consecutive year the local authority has applied for disapplication and that the previous eight applications have been successful.
04/02/2025	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT – SCHOOL BUDGET SHARES 2025/26 AND CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK 2025/26	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the contents of this report; b) Noted the agreement by Schools' Forum to centrally retain funding of £0.595m, updated to £0.608m to reflect the increased copyright licence cost; c) Noted the agreement by Schools' Forum to transfer 0.5% of schools block funding (£0.436m) to the High Needs Block; d) Agreed the MFG to be used for 2025/26 and noted the recommendation from Schools' Forum of applying an MFG of 0.0%, alongside

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		<p>an appropriate cap which has been calculated at 0.38%;</p> <p>e) Approved the School Budget Share for 2025/26;</p> <p>f) Noted the agreement by Schools' Forum to transfer the residual funding from the Central School Services Block to the High Needs Block (£0.080m).</p>
18/03/25	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT – HIGH NEEDS BLOCK 2025/26	<p>Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) noted the contents of the report; b) Approved the budget proposal recommended by Schools' Forum for 2025/26 shown in the table at paragraph 5.1 of this report, acknowledging the funding gap of £4.257m.
18/03/25	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT – EARLY YEAR'S BLOCK 2025/26	<p>Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) noted the contents of the report and the outcomes from both consultations with providers and Schools' Forum on 19 February 2025 and 3 March 2025; b) noted the recommendation by Schools' Forum to centrally retain funding of 4%; c) approved the hourly rate funding formula for 3- to 4-year-old provision in 2025/26 as shown in the table at paragraph 6.3, as recommended by Schools' Forum; d) approved the hourly rate funding formula for disadvantaged 2-year-old provision in 2025/26 as

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		<p>shown in the table at paragraph 6.6 of this report as recommended by Schools' Forum;</p> <p>e) approved the hourly rate funding formula for working parent 2-year-old provision in 2025/26 as shown in the table at paragraph 6.7 of this report as recommended by Schools' Forum;</p> <p>f) approved the hourly rate funding formula for under 2-year-old provision for 2025/26 as outlined at paragraph 6.8 as recommended by Schools' Forum.</p>
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Report to Hartlepool Schools' Forum 9 December 2025
From Amanda Whitehead, Assistant Director – Education

Item 3: High Needs Block (HNB) Projected Outturn 2025/26

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the projected 2025/26 outturn for high needs services based on spending to the end of quarter two.

2. Background

- 2.1 Financial pressures affecting the provision of services for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are reported to Schools' Forum at regular intervals.
- 2.2 Projected outturns for 2025/26 based on worse-case, mid-case and best-case have been prepared.
- 2.3 The final position for 2024/25 was a year-end overspend of £3.343m. When added to the DSG deficit balance from 2023/24 of £1.589m, the DSG deficit stands at £4.932m.
- 2.4 Children's Services Committee approved proposals from Officers to set a budget requirement exceeding the available HNB funding by £4.257m in 2025/26. The budget shortfall would increase the deficit to £9.189m by 31 March 2026.

3. 2025/26 Block Funding

- 3.1 Before recoupment of academy place funding, the latest Hartlepool HNB allocation for 2025/26 is £21.575m. Schools Forum will recall their agreement to transfer £0.436m (0.5%) of the School's Block and the residual Central School Services Block (CSSB) of £0.080m to the High Needs Block. This provides total funding of **£18.115m** after recoupment of £3.976m for academy place funding, or **£22.090m** before recoupment.

4. 2025/26 Outturn Projection

- 4.1 Based on spending to quarter two, along with estimated expenditure for the remainder of the financial year, the projected outturn position for high needs ranges from £4.643m overspend best case to £5.226m overspend worse case. This is summarised by each area of spend in the table below.
- 4.2 The paragraphs that follow explain the main variances to budget based on the mid-case projection of £4.970m.

High Needs Expenditure 2025/26	Worse Case		Mid Case		Best Case	
	Projection	Variance Over/(under) Spend	Projection	Variance Over/(under) Spend	Projection	Variance Over/(under) Spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
DSG High Needs Block Grant		(0.216)		(0.216)		(0.216)
ESFA recoupment – academy place funding	3.976	-	3.976	-	3.976	-
Place funding (LA)	0.696	-	0.696	-	0.696	-
Independent school fees	5.132	(0.149)	5.110	(0.172)	5.087	(0.195)
Out of Area top-ups	0.405	(0.037)	0.405	(0.037)	0.405	(0.037)
Top-up funding and support	13.216	1.130	13.192	1.107	12.890	0.805
Horizon, Haven & AP	1.640	0.250	1.428	0.038	1.428	0.038
Post-16 top-ups	1.539	(0.009)	1.539	(0.009)	1.539	(0.009)
Support services	0.713	-	0.713	-	0.713	-
Approved budget shortfall		4.257		4.257		4.257
Total projection	27.318	5.226	27.060	4.970	26.734	4.643

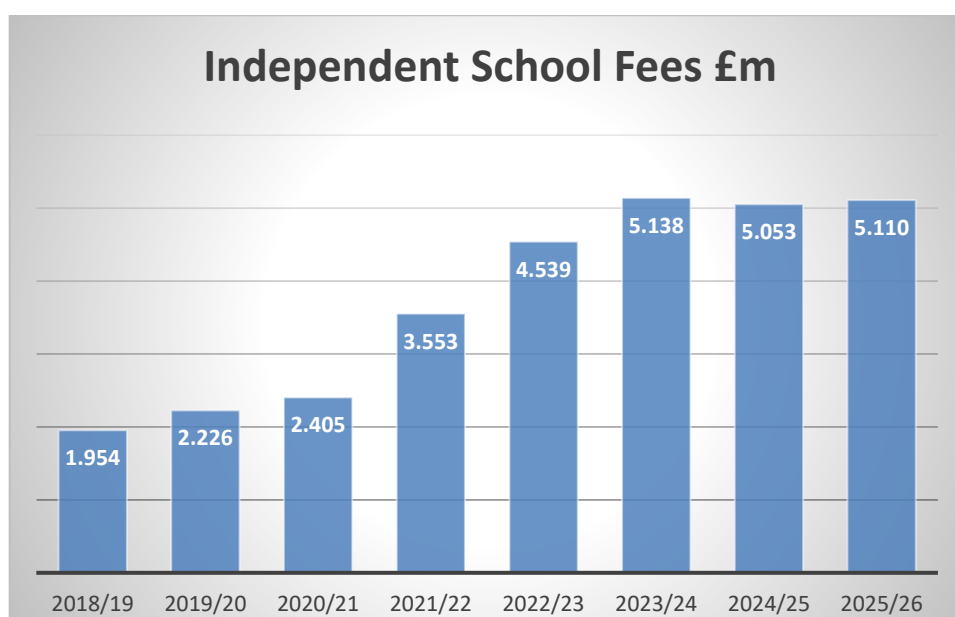
4.3 Local authority place funding (on budget).

This budget head covers payment of place funding to ARPs within maintained schools. Outturn is expected to be in line with budget. New primary school ARP provision has been agreed but is being paid based on cost via top-ups as opposed to place funding and top-up in 2025/26 until the new provision is established. This spend is included under the Top-Up Funding and Support budget line.

4.4 Independent school fees (£0.172m underspend)

The mid-case projected spend for independent school placements is £5.110m. The underspend has increased further from the estimated £0.051m reported at Quarter 1. To date, 78 pupils with SEND have been placed in Independent School provision for at least part of this financial year. The projected spend gives an average cost of £0.065m per place. The improvement is primarily attributed to confirmed Year 12 leavers. The projection assumes a further 3 new placements will be commissioned for spring 2026, based on the lower end of placement costs. These new placements are forecast at £0.069m per annum, with a total of £0.023m included for the term.

The projected £5.110m compares to total spend of £5.053m in 2024/25.



4.5 Out of authority top-ups (£0.037m underspend)

The mid-case projected spend for out of authority placements is £0.405m, compared to £0.395m in 2024/25. To date, 30 pupils with SEND have been placed in Out of Area provision for at least part of this financial year. The projected spend gives an average cost of £0.014m per place. Although there were six school leavers in July 2025, so far there has only been one new starter to offset the reduced cost of leavers.

4.6 Horizon, Haven & AP (£0.038m overspend)

The Horizon School and Haven 2025/26 budget was initially approved at £1.675m. However, following an improved final outturn position for 2024/25 after the budget was set, the Executive Head Teacher proposed a reduced budget requirement of £1.390m for 2025/26. This revised budget was subsequently approved by the Management Committee. The latest outturn estimate indicates a small overspend of £0.038m. The running and set up cost of the new Complex SEMH and EBSA ARPs are being clarified, and this may amend the outturn estimate. This is reflected in the worst-case scenario outturn projection.

4.7 Top-up funding and support (£1.107m overspend)

This budget heading includes funding for Individual Pupil Support (IPS) and funding for Special Schools, the SEMH Free School and ARP top-ups.

The mid-case projected spend for Individual Pupil Support (IPS) is £3.882m. This represents current commitments and the assumption to fund a further 10 new funding agreements for 5 months over autumn 2024 and spring 2025 at a range of 5i. We have also assumed growth in exceptional/group funding of £0.150m. This gives a projected overspend of £0.429m. The newly established Seeking Support Panels continue to challenge and scrutinise all new funding requests.

The cost of ARPs is showing a projected spend of £2.627m which is a overspend of £0.605m when compared to the original budget. The primary reason for the overspend relates to the new Complex SEMH and EBSA ARP being managed by Horizon School. The original budget assumed one new Complex Need ARP of 6 places at £30,000 per place. However, following further discussion and identification of need, two new 12 place units were commissioned, increasing costs beyond initial estimates.

As reported previously, additional financial pressure is occurring because of higher bandings for pupils with SEND in ARP provision. This is acknowledged as part of the strategy to reduce more costly provision.

Spending on ARPs includes payment of the supplementary grant. The supplementary grant was first received in 2022/23 to offset the costs of the new Health and Social Care Levy (since aborted) and other cost increases such as energy. Special Schools also continue to receive the supplementary grant, whereas the grant was rolled into the National Funding Formula for mainstream schools so is now part of their school budget share. As new ARPs have been established, or existing ARPs expanded, no additional funding has been received for the supplementary grant as the value of the grant was frozen as at 2022/23 amounts. For this reason, new ARP places will not attract supplementary grant and this position is assumed in the outturn figures presented in this report.

The projected spend on Catcote and Springwell Special Schools estimates an overspend of £0.075m which represents a part-year impact of unbudgeted growth for Academic Year 2025-26. At their meeting on 14 October 2025, Schools' Forum recommended approval of the total growth requests of £0.632m to Committee. The projection assumes that the AY 2025-26 cost model proposals will be approved at Children Services Committee on 2 December 2025.

Places at the SEMH Free School for the 2025 academic year have increased from the initial 30 to 41. The HNB formula for 2025/26 includes funding for pupils on the January 2025 census, along with additional funding from DfE to support the Council during the transition period. These two elements provide new funding of £0.364m. Places at the Free School are now being recouped by DfE from the Hartlepool formula at a cost of £0.364m. Although an improvement on the funding lag of £0.514m in 2024/25, a funding lag impact of £0.243m continues as a financial pressure in 2025/26, once top-up payments are considered. As the funding lag was accommodated in the 2025/26 budget, an overspend is not anticipated.

The top-up funding for the SEMH Free School includes provision for 41 places, along with additional funding for pupils requiring support beyond the standard top-up.

The Hearing/Visually impaired joint agreement is showing a projected underspend of £0.011m, based on an early indication from Middlesbrough Borough Council that a 4% uplift in fees will be requested. Formal confirmation is still awaited. This uplift was not known at the time of budget setting and is lower than originally anticipated.

4.8 Post-16 top-up funding (£0.009m underspend)

Provision for post-16 education for pupils with SEND appears to be levelling out, following significant increases in recent years.

4.9 Support Services (on budget)

Nil Variance.

4.10 The approved budget shortfall of £4.257m is added to the outturn position as this represents unfunded expenditure included in the budget headings above.

5. **DSG Deficit and Mitigation**

- 5.1 There is a negative reserve balance recorded against the DSG Block of £4.932m. Should the mid-case projection of £4.970m included in this report materialise, there would be a total deficit reserve of £9.900m (before any final outturns on the other DSG Blocks). This remains subject to the statutory override, which has now been extended until the end of 2027/28 financial year, allowing councils to exclude DSG deficits from their general fund balances while longer-term reforms are developed.
- 5.2 The authority keeps the DSG Management Plan under regular review as mandated by DfE. Regular review meetings are in place, led by the Assistant Director, Education. The plan includes details of mitigations that are being implemented to reduce the deficit. These are listed below.

SEMH Free School opening Sept 2024 (avoidance of more costly independent school provision)

Seeking Support / move to clusters (increase challenge and scrutiny of funding requests and explore innovative solutions)

Increase Additional Resource Provision (avoidance of more costly provision)

Transfer of funding for Haven pupils

3 Tier AP Model (reduce permanent exclusions)

Restrict Inflationary Increases to Top-Up Payments

6. **Recommendations**

- 6.1 Forum is recommended to note the contents of this report.

**Dedicated Schools Grant 2026-27 Decision Timeline Report to Hartlepool Schools’
Forum 9 December 2025
From Alison Sutherland – Director**

Item 4: Dedicated Schools Grant 2026/27- Decision Timeline

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Most of the financial information from DfE affecting Dedicated School Grant (DSG) budget planning for 2026/27 is expected during week starting 15 December. Several elements of the information are later than usual, resulting in a tight timeframe for decision making.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to outline the draft timing for consideration and decision making of key DSG budget decisions for Forum to meet statutory deadlines.
- 1.3 The report is also a prompt for Forum Members to clarify any additional information that may be required from the local authority to inform decision making.

2. Background

- 2.1 Recommendations and approvals made by Schools’ Forum need to be considered at Children’s Services Committee, with the Committee making decisions based on Forum and officers’ recommendations. The Committee meetings for budget decisions are 3 February 2026 and 3 March 2026.
- 2.2 There are several dates that must be met to satisfy DSG regulations. These are:
 - Nursery settings must be notified of their new hourly rates for each entitlement by 28 February. This is a revised statutory requirement and has been brought forward from 31 March;
 - School Budget Shares must be made available in the Authority Pro-Forma tool by 23 January and ratification must be confirmed shortly afterwards;
 - Schools Budget Shares must be made available to Schools before February half-term (this includes amounts to inform academy GAG allocations);
 - Budgets must be approved for all DSG areas by the statutory date of 31 March.
- 2.3 Schools’ Forum will receive budget proposals for decision at their meetings of 12 January and 26 January. The meeting scheduled for 10 February is likely to be needed to complete final recommendations affecting the High Needs Block Budget for 2026/27.
- 2.4 The sections that follow outline decisions made to date, along with timelines for remaining decisions to meet statutory deadlines.
- 2.5 Appendix A to the report provides a summary of each timeline per DSG Block.

3. Timeline and Decision Making – Schools Block

- 3.1 At their meeting on 14 October 2025, Forum made several recommendations on key elements of budget planning. Please refer to the School Budget Shares report on this same agenda.

- 3.2 Until financial information is published by DfE during week starting 15 December, it is not possible to calculate the required cap, or to model Individual School Budgets (ISBs).
- 3.3 At their meeting on 12 January 2026, Forum will be notified of the required cap and the usual anonymous appendix of ISBs will be provided.
- 3.4 The growth allocation for 2026/27 should also be available during week starting 15 December. Growth funding in 2025/26 was £0.177m with disbursements of £0.105m. Estimated disbursements against the 2026/27 growth fund have reduced significantly to £0.006m (Forum will recall that calculated disbursements are paid to the appropriate schools in the following financial year).
- 3.5 There may be a decision required from Forum on whether to use some of the growth funding to support ISBs, should the maximum MFG of +0.00%, after the 0.5% transfer to the High Needs Block, prove unaffordable. Please note that this has never been the position to date in previous financial years.
- 3.6 The value of the 0.5% transfer to the High Needs Block will be confirmed at the same meeting on 12 January.
- 3.7 The recommendations from Forum to approve the ISBs will be presented to Committee on 3 February.
- 3.8 The local authority must submit the APT that confirms ISBs to DfE by the statutory date of 23 January. Ratification must follow within a short period.
- 3.9 Forum is asked to consider whether any additional information is required to support decision making.

4. Timeline and Decision Making – Central School Services Block (CSSB)

- 4.1 At their meeting on 14 October 2025, Forum approved the budget requirement for CSSB. Forum also agreed that, once the budget requirement was met, any residual funding could be transferred to the High Needs Block.
- 4.2 There are no further decisions required from Forum relating to the CSSB. Block funding allocations are expected during week starting 15 December. Forum will be provided with an update on the funding versus the budget requirement so that any transfer to the High Needs Block can be quantified.
- 4.3 The recommendations from Forum to approve the CSSB budget requirement will be presented to Committee on 3 February.

5. Timeline and Decision Making – Early Years Block (EYB)

- 5.1 At their meeting on 12 January, Forum will be asked to consider several budget proposals affecting the EYB. Forum are asked to note that the Provider consultation results will be tabled at the meeting and not circulated in advance because of the timeframe.

- 5.2 DfE have not released funding information for the EYB 2026/27. We expect this to be as late as week starting 15 December, despite the earlier statutory date of 28 February to notify providers of their new hourly rates.
- 5.3 From 2026/27, the pass-through rate to providers has increased to 97% (from 96% in 2025/26 and 95% before then). The new entitlements for 2-year-old working parents and under 2-year-olds have increased from 15 hours to 30 hours from September so this budget area continues to undergo significant change.
- 5.4 Forum may recall that a second round of late consultation with providers was undertaken for 2025/26 budget planning as the initial response rate was considered low. The condensed timeline for 2026/27 budget planning means that consultation must be restricted to one event and for a short window (proposed dates are Monday 5th January to Friday 9th January). Forum Members, particularly our PVI representatives are asked to strongly support the consultation to ensure a high response rate.
- 5.5 The recommendations required from Forum on 12 January will be:
- Budget requirement for Centrally Retained – the staff and systems required to support administration of early years provision;
 - The amount of any deprivation payment to incentivise providers;
 - The amount of any contingency to avoid the risk of overspending, particularly in the context of the growing DSG deficit;
 - The amount to set aside for SEN Inclusion;
 - Base rates payable to providers.

These proposals will be required for each individual entitlement – 3- to 4-year-old universal and extended, 2-year-old additional help, 2-year-old working parents and under 2-year-old working parents.

- 5.6 The recommendations from Forum to approve the EYB budget requirement will be presented to Committee on 3 February. This is to allow for communication of new hourly rates to providers by the earlier statutory date of 28 February.
- 5.7 Forum may recall that EYB hourly rates were the subject of extended debate for 2025/26 planning. Forum suggested that future year budget planning would be helped by a similar anonymous listing to the ISBs so that providers could see the potential financial impact more clearly (rather than increases being restricted to amounts stated in hourly rates). This suggestion will be acted upon for 2026/27 budget planning.
- 5.8 Forum is asked to consider if any additional information is required to assist with decision making for the EYB.

6. Timeline and Decision Making – High Needs Block (HNB)

- 6.1 DfE have not released funding information for the HNB 2026/27. We expect this to be as late as week starting 15 December.
- 6.2 Information released in the Autumn statement promises significant increases to SEND funding to local authorities from 2028. Further details on this may be included in the figures published in December or as part of the Local Government Settlement.

- 6.3 Budget proposals to Schools' Forum will be presented for:
- The "business as usual" budget requirement – inflationary or other increases needed for our current areas of provision;
 - Funding of any strategic changes – areas where we believe investment is needed to avoid higher costs, or to improve the outcomes of pupils with SEND.
- 6.4 The recommendations from Forum/ Officers to approve the HNB budget requirement will be presented to Committee on 3 March. Forum can expect budget proposals affecting the HNB to be presented at the meetings scheduled for 12 January, 26 January and 10 February.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Forum is asked to note the contents of this report and to propose any additional information considered necessary for informed decision making.

APPENDIX A: DSG 2026/27 Summary Decision Timeline by Block

Block	Recommendation / Decision	Forum 12 Jan	Forum 26 Jan	Forum 10 Feb	Ctte 3 Feb	Ctte 3 Mar
Schools	Individual School Budgets – confirm cap and affordability of the NFF	✓			✓	
CSSB	Update to Forum (budget requirement already approved) – full approval needed from Committee based on Forum recommendations	✓			✓	
EYB	Centrally retained budget requirement	✓			✓	
EYB	Hourly rate structure and amounts – 3- to 4-year-old provision	✓			✓	
EYB	Hourly rate structure and amounts – 2-year-old provision (additional help)	✓			✓	
EYB	Hourly rate structure and amounts – 2-year-old provision (working parent)	✓			✓	
EYB	Hourly rate structure and amounts – under 2-year-old provision	✓			✓	
HNB	“Business as usual” budget requirement	✓	✓			✓
HNB	Strategic Changes budget requirement		✓			✓
HNB	Consolidated budget requirement			✓		✓

Report to Hartlepool Schools' Forum 9 December 2025
From Amanda Whitehead – Assistant Director Education

Item 5: School Budget Shares 2026/27

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present information received to date relating to School Budget Shares for 2026/27.

2. Background

- 2.1 DfE have released information affecting the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block allocation for 2026/27. The calculation and modelling of indicative budgets for individual schools will not be possible until the release of the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) expected on 17 December 2025.
- 2.2 Information relating to the review of deprivation indices has been made available to the local authority via SIGOMA (Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities) that may affect the allocation of NFF funds to Hartlepool in 2026/27.
- 2.3 Consultation with Schools' Forum has already been completed on key principles for budget planning. At their meeting on 16 September 2025, Forum agreed the following principles affecting School Budget Shares in 2026/27:
- A block transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block (£0.436m in 2025/26);
 - Application of the maximum MFG to ensure stability of the per pupil amount funding for schools compared to 2025/26;
 - An appropriate cap to ensure the maximum MFG is affordable within the DSG Schools Block allocation.

3. Structure of the NFF 2026/27

- 3.1 The Schools Budget Support Grant (SBSG) and the National Insurance Contribution (NICs) Grant are being rolled into the schools NFF for 2026 to 2027. Schools funded from the High Needs Block will continue to receive the separate Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG) to cover these elements.
- 3.2 In June 2025, the government announced that, starting from September 2026, Free School Meals (FSM) will be extended to all children in households receiving Universal Credit (UC). For 2026 to 2027, DfE are not proposing any changes to the schools NFF FSM allocations through the DSG. Instead, the additional funding for the FSM expansion will be provided through a separate grant. Further details on how this grant will be calculated will be published separately by DfE.
- 3.3 DfE have confirmed that the formula factors will remain unchanged from 2025/26. After rolling in the SBSG and NICs Grant, there have been inflationary increases added to formula factors. These are:
- 2.11% increase has been applied to the basic entitlement; FSM6 values and the lump sum factors

- 2.11% increase has also been applied to the IDACI, low prior attainment (LPA), English as an Additional Language (EAL), mobility, sparsity and split sites factors
- 1.66% uplift has been applied to the FSM factor in the NFF, in line with inflation forecasts.

A full list of formula factor values is attached at **Appendix A** to this report.

- 3.4 The regulations continue to allow a local policy for a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) and cap so that any excessive year-on year changes can be protected against.
- 3.5 For 2025/26, a local MFG could be applied in the range of -0.5% to +0.00%. This range is unchanged for 2026/27.
- 3.6 For 2026/27, a local policy will be applied based on the maximum allowable MFG of +0.00%, as agreed by Forum. For the 0.00% MFG to be affordable, a cap may be required (0.38% cap in 2025/26). In 2025/26, this meant all schools received at least the same amount of funding per pupil as 2024/25 and no more than 0.38% per pupil in 2025/26 ISBs. The cap cannot be calculated until the authority receives the APT, during week starting 15 December. Forum will receive Individual School Budget proposals at their meeting on 12 January 2026.

4. **Confirmed Units of Funding 2026/27**

- 4.1 Hartlepool's Primary Unit of Funding (PUF) for 2026/27 is confirmed at £6,193 (£5,843 in 2025/26). The Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF) for 2026/27 is £7,936 (£7,521 in 2025/26). Once October 2025 census data is validated and released by DfE, Hartlepool DSG funding (excluding the growth allocation) will be calculated as primary pupils on roll multiplied by the PUF plus secondary pupils on roll multiplied by the SUF.
- 4.2 Indicative October 2025 census information has been made available by the Council's Data Team. Using this information, the estimated DSG Schools Block funding for 2026/27 is shown in the table below. Funding for premises and growth is excluded at this stage.

Schools Block	Est Pupil Numbers (Oct 2025)	Updated 2026/27 NFF £m	2025/26 Comparison £m
Primary	7,440	46.076	44.371
Secondary	5,662	44.934	42.335
SBSG and NIC Grants			2.390
TOTAL 2026/27		91.010	89.096

- 4.3 The **£91.010m** compares with the equivalent figure of **£89.096m** for 2025/26 (Schools block NFF plus the separate SBSG and NIC Grants, an increase of 2.15%. Primary pupil numbers have reduced by 155 from the October 2024 census. Secondary pupil numbers have increased by 33 from the October 2024 census.
- 4.4 The mandatory element for Minimum per Pupil Funding (MPPF) has increased from £4,955 to £5,115 for primary pupils and from £6,465 to £6,640 for secondary pupils. Forum Members will recall that the MPPF calculation includes the lump sum so that schools with lower pupil volumes are less likely to benefit from the MPPF guarantee.

One Hartlepool primary school was below the MPPF within the 2025/26 NFF so received an additional allocation to satisfy the MPPF guarantee.

5. Review of Deprivation Indices

- 5.1 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) has been updated earlier this year. The IMD is one of the key indicators in the NFF. Deprivation funding for Hartlepool Schools linked to the IMD was £5.367m in 2025/26. The IMD update shows that Hartlepool's ranking has increased across Upper Tier Authorities from 9th place nationally to 4th place. Although the impact of this change cannot be quantified, it is possible that Hartlepool may see increased funding in the NFF for 2026/27.
- 5.2 The SIGOMA briefing is attached at **Appendix B** to this report for information.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Forum is asked to note the contents of this report.

APPENDIX A: Funding Factor Values

Factor	2025/26	2026/27
Basic Entitlement (AWPU) – Primary	£3,847	£4,064
Basic Entitlement (AWPU) – KS3	£5,422	£5,686
Basic Entitlement (AWPU) – KS4	£6,113	£6,410
IDACI Band A - Primary	£685	£700
IDACI Band B – Primary	£520	£530
IDACI Band C – Primary	£490	£500
IDACI Band D – Primary	£445	£455
IDACI Band E – Primary	£285	£290
IDACI Band F – Primary	£235	£240
IDACI Band A - Secondary	£950	£970
IDACI Band B – Secondary	£745	£760
IDACI Band C – Secondary	£695	£710
IDACI Band D – Secondary	£635	£650
IDACI Band E – Secondary	£450	£460
IDACI Band F – Secondary	£340	£345
FSM – Primary	£495	£505
FSM – Secondary	£495	£505
FSM Ever 6 – Primary	£1,060	£1,210
FSM Ever 6 – Secondary	£1,555	£1,725
Low Prior Attainment – Primary	£1,175	£1,200
Low Prior Attainment – Secondary	£1,785	£1,825
EAL – Primary	£595	£610
EAL – Secondary	£1,595	£1,630
Mobility – Primary	£965	£985
Mobility – Secondary	£1,385	£1,415
Lump Sum	£145,100	£152,700
Sparsity – Primary	£57,400	£58,600
Sparsity - Secondary	£83,400	£85,200



Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2025 Update

IMD Background and Indices Changes

- 1.1 The Indices of Deprivation are an important tool for measuring relative deprivation across England. They are used by local authorities to help them understand their local areas and by the government to prioritise areas for funding (such as for capital funding distribution including recently for the Pride in Place Programme). The IMD is used extensively in the new Fair Funding needs model. This was one of our key asks. This means that change in each local authorities' relative deprivation "score" will materially impact funding outcomes. **The IMD is used in the Foundation Formulas (both upper and lower), the Local Council Tax Support proxy in the resource adjustment, while the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), is one of the key indicators in the Children's Services formula.** The IDACI is one of 2 "supplementary indices" which uses data from the IMD – the other one looks at income deprivation for older people (IDAOPI). The IDACI uses the income domain but focuses on income deprivation for children. The first iteration of the IMD was published in 2000. Subsequent iterations have been published in 2004, 2007, 2010, 2015 and the last update was in 2019. At that point, around three-quarters of SIGOMA members became relatively more deprived with London boroughs seeing big relative improvements.
- 1.2 We have used the "**Rank by average score**" measure as this shows change in relative deprivation using the **average score**, which is what is used for the purposes of Fair Funding, and is generally considered the best way to understand the overall deprivation picture. There are other useful ways to show deprivation including Average Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) Rank (used by *The Times* in their reporting on the update) or Proportion of LSOAs in most deprived 10% nationally (used by the BBC in their reporting). We have chosen to use the upper-tier list as this includes County Councils which is more useful for Fair Funding comparisons. **The "Domains" that make up the IMD have remained unchanged and retain the same weightings.** These are: Income Deprivation (22.5%), Employment Deprivation (22.5%), Education, Skills and Training Deprivation (13.5%), Health Deprivation and Disability (13.5%), Crime (9.3%), Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3%), Living Environment Deprivation (9.3%). **The indicators that make up the 2025 version of the IMD has been changed quite significantly from the 2019 iteration.** There are 55 in the IoD25, an increase from 39 in the IoD19. Of these, 20 are new indicators, 14 indicators have been significantly modified, while 21 have been updated to more recent timepoints and three indicators have also been removed.

Income Domain

- 1.3 The most notable change is to the indicators which constitute the Income Domain. As called for by London Councils, the weighting given to **Housing Costs** has increased as part of the update. **An increased weighting for Housing Costs will make our members appear less deprived** as the cost of housing is much lower in SIGOMA areas than the rest of the country, and particularly lower compared to London. For example, the average monthly private renting cost in Barnsley (£650) is approximately half the national average, and more than 5 times less than in Kensington and Chelsea (£3500). Previously one of the indicators in the Income Domain set the threshold for “low-income households” to be households earning less than 60% of the median income. **Now 3 of the indicators in the Income Domain set the threshold at less than 70% of median income, after housing costs** (see comparison below). This has meant that the relative **income deprivation of SIGOMA authorities has reduced significantly** - (the average SIGOMA council has become much less income deprived, moving 7 ranking spots from 37th to 44th out of 153 councils, with 1st being the most deprived). In contrast, the average London Council moved 13 places more deprived, moving from an average of 74th to 61st. We will conduct further analysis to examine the impact of the addition of Housing Costs, but it is clear that **this statistical change will move funding to London and make SIGOMA members appear less in need of funding.**

	Average Income Rank (1 st is most deprived)			
Council Grouping	2010	2015	2019	2025
SIGOMA	66 th	42 nd	37 th	44 th
London Councils	78 th	69 th	74 th	61 st

	Average IDACI Rank	
Council Grouping	2019	2025
SIGOMA	40 th	46 th
London Councils	76 th	66 th

Income Support
 Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
 Pension Credit (Guarantee)
 Universal Credit 'out of work': 'No work requirements', 'Planning for Work', 'Preparing for work', 'Searching for work'
 Universal Credit 'in work': 'Working with requirements' and 'Working no requirements' with monthly equivalised income below 70% of the national median (after housing costs)
 Housing Benefit with monthly equivalised income below 70% of the national median (after housing costs)
 Tax Credit with monthly equivalised income below 70% of the national median (after housing costs)
 Asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation receipt of support

2025 Income Domain

Adults & children in Income Support families
 Adults & children in Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance families or Income-based Employment and Support Allowance families
 Adults & children in Pension Credit (Guarantee) families
 Adults & children in Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit families not already counted
 Asylum seekers in England in receipt of subsistence support, accommodation support, or both
 Adults and children in Universal Credit families where no adult is in 'Working - no requirements' conditionality regime

2019 Income Domain

Adults and children in Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit families not already counted, that is those who are not in receipt of Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit (Guarantee), and whose equivalised income (excluding housing benefit) is below 60% of the median before housing costs

- 1.4 **The change in scores in the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) will likely have the most significant material impact in terms of Fair Funding.** This is because the IDACI is one of the prominent indicators used to determine the Children's Formula, which is currently modelled to bring significant benefit to SIGOMA authorities. **The swings in the IDACI have been significant, with many London Boroughs moving dozens of places up the deprivation rankings.** For instance, Brent has moved from 73rd to 5th most deprived, and Newham has moved from 59th to 4th. Middlesbrough and Blackpool have been replaced as 1st and 2nd most deprived by Tower Hamlets and Hackney, with both moving down the rankings 9 places each. Overall, SIGOMA members have become less deprived, moving on average 6 places down the rankings, with 29 councils becoming less deprived, and 17 becoming more deprived.

Overall Impact

2.1 However, despite a significant relative improvement in the income domain, the overall change in deprivation rankings for SIGOMA members is not substantial. This is because in **totality across the other, non-income domains, on average, SIGOMA councils have become relatively more deprived**. This is particularly the case in the Crime and Barriers to Housing and Services Domains (London Councils have moved significantly in the opposite direction on both). In the Crime Domain, the average SIGOMA Council has moved 7 places more deprived (from 45th to 38th) while the average London Borough has moved 14 places less deprived (from 60th to 74th).

2.2 **For the overall IMD, on average, SIGOMA councils have moved 2 places less deprived** (the average SIGOMA council is now ranked 37th, up from 35th). In the 2019 update, on average, SIGOMA councils moved 5 places more deprived, from 40th to 35th in the rankings. It was predicted that on average SIGOMA members would generally become more deprived in the 2025 update. Independent financial consultancy Pixel wrote in September that “*We are expecting IMD to increase in relative terms in metropolitan areas, and for London boroughs to reduce in relative deprivation. And given the 6-year hiatus in updating IMD, the movement could be significant*”. The introduction of Housing Costs has likely reversed the overall expected outcome, **but the overall shift in IMD is relatively minimal, with SIGOMA councils improving 2 places on average, and London Councils worsening 2 places on average**. The chart below shows that some the change since 2019 has slightly reversed the significant movement between 2015 and 2019.

	Average Overall Rank (1 st is most deprived)		
Council Grouping	2015	2019	2025
SIGOMA	40 th	35 th (↑ 5 places)	37 th (↓ 2 places)
London Councils	74 th	84 th (↓ 10 places)	82 nd (↑ 2 places)

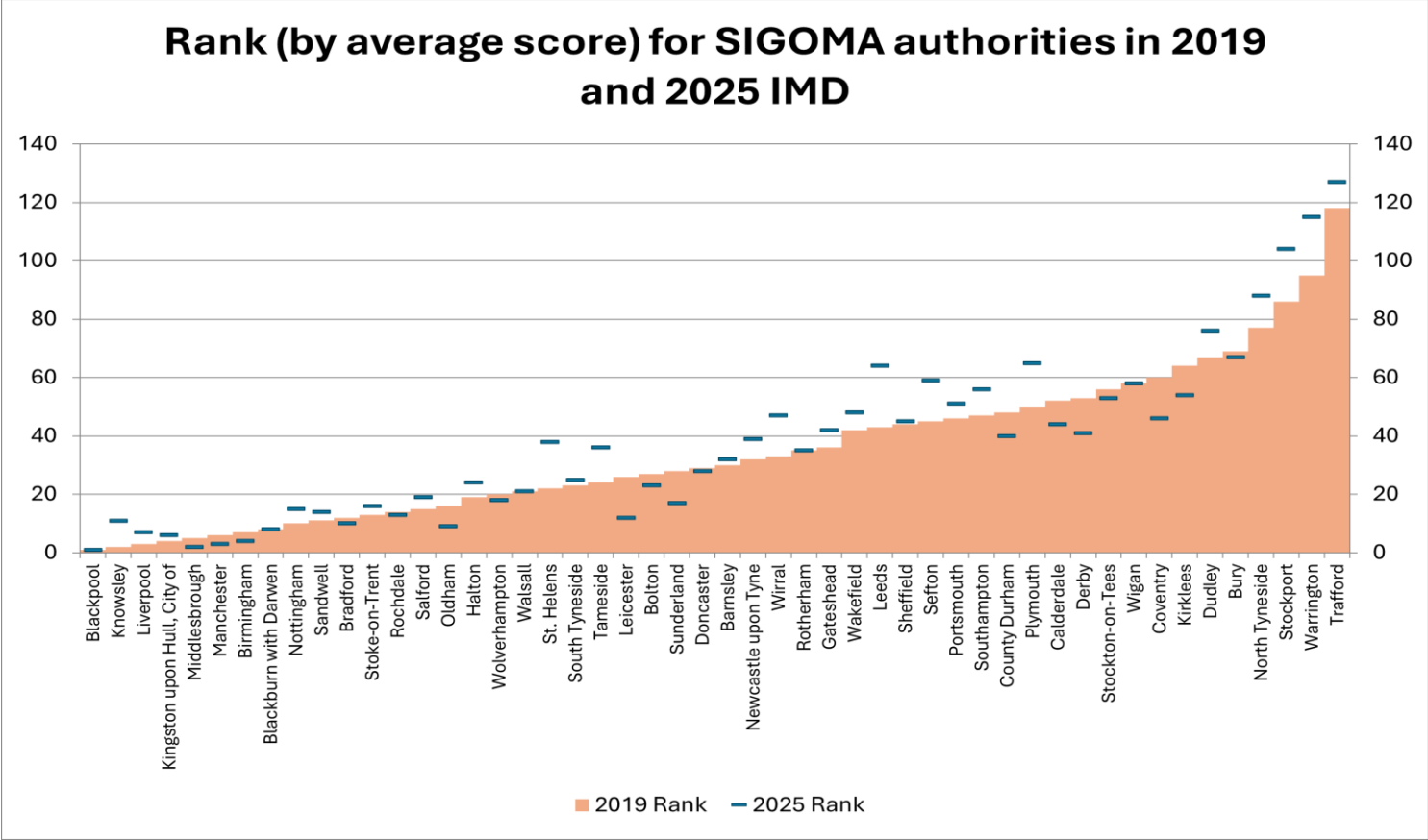
2.3 **SIGOMA members continue to dominate the most deprived councils with 9** of the top 10 most deprived, and 18 of the top 20. Blackpool remains the most deprived local authority in England, and Wokingham remains the least deprived authority in England (ranked 153rd/153rd).

2.4 **There is a big range in outcomes for SIGOMA members**. Overall, 18 councils have become more relatively deprived in the rankings, compared to 27 councils that have become less deprived. The remaining 5 councils have retained the same rank. The biggest relative improvement has been in Leeds, followed by

Warrington, Stockport, St. Helens and Plymouth. Leicester, Coventry, Derby, Sunderland and Kirklees have seen the biggest increases in relative deprivation by rank of average score (see annexes below for full list of ranks and changes).

Next Steps

3.1 Now that the 2025 IMD has been published, the next step of analysis is to apply the new IMD numbers to the formulas in the Fair Funding Review. The difficulty of this ranges between the different formulas as we have different levels of information about how each is constructed (and so how easy they are to replicate and amend). But in simple terms, we expect authorities that have become more relatively deprived to see an increase in modelled funding levels, and the opposite for authorities that have become less relatively deprived, with the extent of the change relating to how much relative movement there has been (with the IDACI movements likely to have the largest potential impact). **However, we expect many more changes in allocations from the numerous decisions yet to be made and other data sets to be updated in the Relative Need Formulas (such as 2024 population), and we overall expect that the overall outcome of the decisions yet to be announced will generally benefit SIGOMA authorities and balance out the overall impact of the reduced funding from a lower average deprivation score due to the inclusion of Housing Costs.**



Annex 1 – SIGOMA Councils ordered by change in rank (including 2015 rank for reference)

SIGOMA Councils	2025 Rank	2019 Rank	2015 Rank	2019 - 2025 Change
Leeds	64	43	57	21 (less deprived)
Warrington	115	95	94	20
Stockport	104	86	96	18
St. Helens	38	22	30	16
Plymouth	65	50	56	15
Wirral	47	33	53	14
Sefton	59	45	60	14
Tameside	36	24	34	12
North Tyneside	88	77	87	11
Knowsley	11	2	2	9
Southampton	56	47	54	9
Dudley	76	67	77	9
Trafford	127	118	120	9
Newcastle upon Tyne	39	32	42	7
Gateshead	42	36	58	6
Wakefield	48	42	52	6
Nottingham	15	10	8	5
Halton	24	19	23	5
Portsmouth	51	46	50	5
Liverpool	7	3	4	4
Salford	19	15	20	4
Sandwell	14	11	12	3
Stoke-on-Trent	16	13	13	3
Kingston upon Hull	6	4	3	2
South Tyneside	25	23	26	2
Barnsley	32	30	32	2
Sheffield	45	44	48	1
Blackpool	1	1	1	0
Blackburn with Darwen	8	8	14	0
Walsall	21	21	27	0
Rotherham	35	35	41	0
Wigan	58	58	63	0
Rochdale	13	14	15	-1
Doncaster	28	29	35	-1
Bradford	10	12	18	-2
Wolverhampton	18	20	16	-2
Bury	67	69	83	-2
Middlesbrough	2	5	6	-3
Manchester	3	6	5	-3

Birmingham	4	7	7	-3
Stockton-on-Tees	53	56	65	-3
Bolton	23	27	40	-4
Oldham	9	16	28	-7
County Durham	40	48	59	-8
Calderdale	44	52	66	-8
Kirklees	54	64	69	-10
Sunderland	17	28	31	-11
Derby	41	53	44	-12
Leicester	12	26	19	-14
				-14 (More Deprived)
Coventry	46	60	43	

Annex 2 – All Upper-Tier authorities by 2025 Rank

	2025 Rank	2019 Rank	2015 Rank	2019 – 2025 Change
Blackpool	1	1	1	0
Middlesbrough	2	5	6	-3
Manchester	3	6	5	-3
Birmingham	4	7	7	-3
Hartlepool	5	9	17	-4
Kingston upon Hull	6	4	3	2
Liverpool	7	3	4	4
Blackburn with Darwen	8	8	14	0
Oldham	9	16	28	-7
Bradford	10	12	18	-2
Knowsley	11	2	2	9
Leicester	12	26	19	-14
Rochdale	13	14	15	-1
Sandwell	14	11	12	3
Nottingham	15	10	8	5
Stoke-on-Trent	16	13	13	3
Sunderland	17	28	31	-11
Wolverhampton	18	20	16	-2
Salford	19	15	20	4
Hackney	20	18	10	2
Walsall	21	21	27	0
Newham	22	34	21	-12
Bolton	23	27	40	-4
Halton	24	19	23	5
South Tyneside	25	23	26	2
Haringey	26	38	24	-12
Tower Hamlets	27	39	9	-12

Doncaster	28	29	35	-1
Redcar and Cleveland	29	31	39	-2
Barking and Dagenham	30	17	11	13
North East Lincolnshire	31	25	25	6
Barnsley	32	30	32	2
Brent	33	61	55	-28
Enfield	34	57	51	-23
Rotherham	35	35	41	0
Tameside	36	24	34	12
Luton	37	54	47	-17
St. Helens	38	22	30	16
Newcastle upon Tyne	39	32	42	7
County Durham	40	48	59	-8
Derby	41	53	44	-12
Gateshead	42	36	58	6
Peterborough	43	40	46	3
Calderdale	44	52	66	-8
Sheffield	45	44	48	1
Coventry	46	60	43	-14
Wirral	47	33	53	14
Wakefield	48	42	52	6
Torbay	49	37	37	12
Islington	50	41	22	9
Portsmouth	51	46	50	5
Ealing	52	74	73	-22
Stockton-on-Tees	53	56	65	-3
Kirklees	54	64	69	-10
Darlington	55	59	72	-4
Southampton	56	47	54	9
Lewisham	57	49	38	8
Wigan	58	58	63	0
Sefton	59	45	60	14
Hounslow	60	82	80	-22
Isle of Wight	61	71	76	-10
Telford and Wrekin	62	65	64	-3
Medway	63	68	81	-5
Leeds	64	43	57	21
Plymouth	65	50	56	15
Southend-on-Sea	66	76	67	-10
Bury	67	69	83	-2
Westminster	68	88	45	-20
Cumberland*	69	-	-	n/a
Camden	70	90	62	-20
Lancashire	71	70	79	1
Greenwich	72	66	61	6

North Lincolnshire	73	79	85	-6
Waltham Forest	74	63	29	11
Southwark	75	55	33	20
Dudley	76	67	77	9
Lambeth	77	62	36	15
Slough	78	73	78	5
Croydon	79	75	71	4
Bristol	80	51	49	29
Cornwall	81	72	70	9
Lincolnshire	82	89	89	-7
Northumberland	83	80	90	3
East Sussex	84	91	99	-7
Hammersmith and Fulham	85	78	68	7
Norfolk	86	84	88	2
Thurrock	87	85	84	2
North Tyneside	88	77	87	11
Kent	89	93	100	-4
Hillingdon	90	103	104	-13
Kensington and Chelsea	91	81	75	10
Brighton and Hove	92	87	74	5
Redbridge	93	109	91	-16
Bedford	94	96	95	-2
Barnet	95	117	109	-22
Derbyshire	96	102	101	-6
Somerset	97	100	110	-3
Suffolk	98	101	102	-3
Herefordshire, County of	99	97	92	2
Nottinghamshire	100	94	98	6
Reading	101	92	93	9
Milton Keynes	102	107	106	-5
North Northamptonshire*	103	-	-	n/a
Stockport	104	86	96	18
Westmorland and Furness*	105	-	-	n/a
Cheshire West and Chester	106	106	105	0
Devon	107	114	114	-7
Essex	108	111	113	-3
Shropshire	109	110	115	-1
Swindon	110	98	108	12
Harrow	111	123	129	-12
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	112	104	121	8
Worcestershire	113	105	111	8
Solihull	114	108	112	6
Warrington	115	95	94	20
Havering	116	112	107	4

West Northamptonshire*	117	0	0	
Staffordshire	118	115	116	3
Dorset	119	120	128	-1
North Yorkshire	120	125	126	-5
East Riding of Yorkshire	121	122	118	-1
Warwickshire	122	121	124	1
North Somerset	123	119	119	4
Bexley	124	116	117	8
Wandsworth	125	113	103	12
Gloucestershire	126	124	123	2
Trafford	127	118	120	9
West Sussex	128	129	131	-1
Merton	129	127	125	2
Cheshire East	130	128	130	2
Sutton	131	131	127	0
Wiltshire	132	133	133	-1
Cambridgeshire	133	132	134	1
Central Bedfordshire	134	137	137	-3
Hertfordshire	135	134	138	1
Leicestershire	136	136	135	0
Hampshire	137	135	141	2
Bromley	138	130	122	8
Isles of Scilly	139	138	140	1
Bath and North East Somerset	140	139	139	1
Buckinghamshire	141	146	148	-5
York	142	140	136	2
South Gloucestershire	143	141	143	2
Oxfordshire	144	142	142	2
Kingston upon Thames	145	143	144	2
West Berkshire	146	147	146	-1
City of London	147	126	132	21
Surrey	148	145	150	3
Bracknell Forest	149	144	145	5
Rutland	150	149	149	1
Richmond upon Thames	151	148	147	3
Windsor and Maidenhead	152	150	151	2
Wokingham	153	151	152	2

*Council impacted by LGR between 2015 and 2025.

Annex 3 – Biggest overall movers in Rank

	2025 Rank	2019 Rank	2019 - 2025 Change
Bristol	80	51	29
Leeds	64	43	21
City of London	147	126	21
Warrington	115	95	20
Southwark	75	55	20
Stockport	104	86	18
St. Helens	38	22	16
Plymouth	65	50	15
Lambeth	77	62	15
Wirral	47	33	14
Leicester	12	26	-14
Coventry	46	60	-14
Redbridge	93	109	-16
Luton	37	54	-17
Westminster	68	88	-20
Camden	70	90	-20
Ealing	52	74	-22
Hounslow	60	82	-22
Barnet	95	117	-22
Enfield	34	57	-23
Brent	33	61	-28

Annex 4 - Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) ordered by change in ranking

Local Authority	2025 Rank	2019 Rank	2019 – 2025 Change
St. Helens	59	27	32 (less deprived)
Bexley	118	86	32
Stockton-on-Tees	79	48	31
Southwark	52	23	29
Bristol	80	52	28
Bromley	142	114	28
Knowsley	30	3	27
Lewisham	57	30	27
Wirral	71	44	27
North Tyneside	102	75	27
South Tyneside	39	13	26
Halton	49	25	24
Sunderland	44	21	23
Torbay	63	40	23

North East Lincolnshire	32	11	21
Newcastle upon Tyne	41	20	21
Redcar and Cleveland	38	18	20
County Durham	58	38	20
Darlington	75	55	20
Thurrock	88	69	19
Stockport	121	102	19
Hartlepool	26	8	18
Plymouth	74	57	17
Trafford	144	127	17
Medway	82	66	16
Lambeth	45	31	14
Greenwich	60	46	14
Northumberland	92	78	14
Kingston upon Hull	18	5	13
Hammersmith and Fulham	81	68	13
Barnsley	47	35	12
Havering	99	87	12
Southend-on-Sea	76	65	11
Swindon	109	98	11
Liverpool	14	4	10
Sefton	77	67	10
Warrington	122	112	10
Kensington and Chelsea	125	115	10
Middlesbrough	10	1	9
Blackpool	11	2	9
Leeds	65	56	9
Wakefield	69	60	9
Wigan	86	77	9
Milton Keynes	106	97	9
Solihull	108	99	9
Cheshire West and Chester	112	103	9
Sutton	127	118	9
North Somerset	128	119	9
Stoke-on-Trent	24	17	7
Kent	96	89	7
Gloucestershire	123	116	7
Islington	16	10	6
Calderdale	67	61	6
Derbyshire	101	95	6
Essex	110	104	6
Bath and North East Somerset	140	134	6
Bracknell Forest	148	142	6
Wolverhampton	17	12	5
Reading	93	88	5
Nottinghamshire	97	92	5

Lincolnshire	87	83	4
Brighton and Hove	98	94	4
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	105	101	4
Cambridgeshire	133	129	4
Tameside	40	37	3
Oxfordshire	141	138	3
Rutland	149	146	3
Richmond upon Thames	151	148	3
Nottingham	8	6	2
Lancashire	83	81	2
Somerset	111	109	2
Merton	113	111	2
Central Bedfordshire	130	128	2
Cheshire East	134	132	2
West Berkshire	145	143	2
Surrey	147	145	2
Wokingham	152	150	2
Isles of Scilly	153	151	2
Salford	25	24	1
Wiltshire	137	136	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	150	149	1
Leicester	22	22	0
Doncaster	33	33	0
Dudley	51	51	0
Gateshead	54	54	0
North Lincolnshire	72	72	0
Cornwall	84	84	0
East Sussex	85	85	0
Norfolk	91	91	0
South Gloucestershire	135	135	0
Manchester	6	7	-1
Rochdale	27	28	-1
Worcestershire	104	105	-1
Hampshire	136	137	-1
York	138	139	-1
Kingston upon Thames	139	140	-1
Buckinghamshire	143	144	-1
City of London	146	147	-1
Sandwell	13	15	-2
Rotherham	37	39	-2
East Riding of Yorkshire	124	126	-2
Telford and Wrekin	42	45	-3
Portsmouth	55	58	-3
Warwickshire	120	123	-3
Walsall	12	16	-4

Wandsworth	89	93	-4
Hertfordshire	126	130	-4
Leicestershire	129	133	-4
Birmingham	3	9	-6
Barking and Dagenham	20	26	-6
Bedford	90	96	-6
Staffordshire	107	113	-6
Devon	115	121	-6
Sheffield	34	41	-7
Southampton	46	53	-7
Bury	73	80	-7
Suffolk	103	110	-7
Isle of Wight	66	74	-8
Dorset	116	124	-8
Blackburn with Darwen	23	32	-9
North Yorkshire	132	141	-9
Camden	53	63	-10
Derby	36	47	-11
Shropshire	114	125	-11
Coventry	31	43	-12
West Sussex	119	131	-12
Tower Hamlets	1	14	-13
Bradford	21	34	-13
Bolton	29	42	-13
Oldham	15	29	-14
Croydon	56	70	-14
Peterborough	35	50	-15
Kirklees	61	76	-15
Hackney	2	19	-17
Hillingdon	70	90	-20
Herefordshire	100	120	-20
Waltham Forest	43	64	-21
Westminster	48	71	-23
Enfield	7	36	-29
Hounslow	50	79	-29
Haringey	19	49	-30
Slough	64	100	-36
Barnet	78	117	-39
Redbridge	68	108	-40
Luton	9	62	-53
Ealing	28	82	-54
Newham	4	59	-55
Harrow	62	122	-60
Brent	5	73	-68 (more deprived)