

REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM
7 November 2023
Item 5
TITLE OF REPORT: School Funding Update October 2023

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum on the funding announcements provided by the Department for Education (DfE) in October 2023.

Background

2. The Department first published the 2024-25 national funding formula (NFF) initial allocations in July 2023. Following the discovery of a technical error made by DfE officials during the initial calculations, an update was made to the schools NFF in October 2023.
3. The technical error was due to incorrect processing of pupil numbers in the initial calculations. This error meant that the overall cost of the schools NFF was underestimated, and incorrect factor values were published in July. The DfE update contains the new, corrected, factor values.
4. No other changes have been made to the structure of the NFF, or the rules governing the local formulae, since July. The total amount of funding in the core schools budget (which includes funding through the schools NFF, high needs NFF, and CSSB) will remain the same as initially announced for 2024-25, and the high needs NFF and central school services block (CSSB) are unaffected by the update.

Mainstream Schools

5. The DfE stated that they intended to increase core funding factors by 2.4%, this has now decreased in total 1.9%, and some areas have only increased by 1.4%.
6. Allocations for Gateshead:

Mainstream Funding	July Announcement	October Announcement	Difference in funding
Primary Unit of Funding (per pupil)	£5,279	£5,231	-£48
Secondary Unity of Funding (per pupil)	£6,680	£6,617	-£63
Premises Factors	£5,239,254	£5,239,254	£0
Provisional Allocation	£144,568,580	£143,297,152	£1,271,428

Proposal

7. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes the information in the report and that further information will be brought to Schools Forum when issued by the DfE.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that Schools Forum note the information in the report.

For the following reasons:

To ensure Schools Forum is aware of the current school funding information.

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