

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

**Shellina Prendergast,**

**Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

**DECISION NO:**

22/00002

**For publication** [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

**Key decision: YES**

*Key decision criteria. The decision will:*

- a) *Change the budget for the service or function in excess of £1,000,000; and*
- b) *It effects the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions.*

**Subject Matter / Title of Decision**

School Funding Arrangements for 2022-23

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to:

- a. Transfer 1% of the Schools Block (which equates to approximately to £10.0m) into the High Needs Block for 2022-23.
- b. In relation to the Kent local funding formula for schools:
  - i. Continue with the Falling Roll fund for 2022-23.
  - ii. Set the local Minimum Funding Guarantee percentage at 0.5% for 2022-23 for primary and secondary schools.
  - iii. Set the Ever 6 Free School Meals Factor for 2022-23 as per the value in the table below:

	2022-23 (£ per pupil)
Primary	£345
Secondary	£627

- iv. Set the Basic Entitlement Factor for 2022-23 as per the value in the table below:

	2022-23 (£ per pupil)
Primary	£3,192
KS3	£4,501
KS4	£5,078

- v. All other factors within the current local funding formula to be set as per the National

Funding Formula (NFF), with most increasing between 2-3% compared to 2021-22.

- c. Increase the base rate paid to Early Years providers for Free entitlement provision by 17p for three- and four-year olds and 21p for two-year olds.
- d. Increase the factor values of the Special Schools funding formula, Alternative Provision/Pupil Referral Units and Specialist Resource Provisions by 4%. Mainstream top-up rates to increase by 1.25% in line with the increase in the national insurance rise.
- e. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to make any further necessary changes to funding rates in light of any final affordability issues.

### **Reason(s) for decision:**

#### Background:

In September 2019, the Chancellor set out details of a three-year Spending Round for schools' commencing on 1 April 2020, which confirmed national school funding would increase by £7.1 billion (compared to 2019-20) by 2022-23. On the 19 July 2021, The Chancellor reconfirmed the intention to increase school budget by an additional £2.3 billion for 2022-23. Kent County Council is expected to receive an additional £49.6m in 2022-23 of which £26.2m reflects increases in pupil numbers and £23.4m relating to general increases in funding rates. Along with £23m for High Needs and the Early Years block is yet to be announced.

The Government's intention remains to have all primary and secondary school budgets to be based on a single formula set nationally by Government, with no Local Government involvement. For 2022-23 the Government is continuing with a *soft* NFF. This means that Local Authorities will continue to set a local funding formula to distribute their schools block funding, in consultation with their local schools and their Schools' Funding Forum, however, there have been further movements towards the hard-National Funding Formula which limits the variables within the formulae, and some rates, where local decisions can be made.

Within the current soft NFF arrangements, Local Authorities are able to transfer funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block with the agreement of Schools' Funding Forum and in certain circumstances the Secretary of State.

The Government requires schools to be consulted on an annual basis regarding any proposed changes to Local Funding Formula for all primary and secondary schools and the request to transfer funding from the school's block to high needs block.

#### Financial Implications:

The cost of the new funding formula for early years, primary and secondary schools will be fully met from the increases in the Dedicated Schools Grant and will not be a cost to Council Funding. The cost of increases for high needs funding will be met from the additional supplementary funding provided in 2022-23.

#### Legal implications:

There are no legal implications, but the Council is required to set the schools budget in accordance with Education Act 2002 and the Conditions of DSG Grant 2022-23.

#### Equalities implications:

An EqIA assessment has been undertaken.

#### Other Alternatives Considered and risks if decision isn't taken:

The Council has a legal obligation to set the schools budget each year.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee considered the decision on 11 January 2022.

An all-schools consultation took place between 4 and 26 November 2021. This was open to all Kent schools. Results were shared with the Schools' Funding Forum on 26 November 2021.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

All options were considered in the consultation that took place in November 2021. The consultation document, an illustration tool showing the impact of proposals on individual school budget, an on-line response form and an equality impact assessment can be access via the following link: [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolfundingconsultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolfundingconsultation). The consultation document contains full details of the proposals and this decision is based on the feedback from respondents and detailed discussions at the Schools' Funding Forum on 26 November 2021.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

None



21-02-22

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Signed

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date