

Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Young People's Services

***Tuesday, 21 January 2025 at 3.00 pm
Room 1 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND***

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#).
However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Items for Decision

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 29 January 2025 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

These proceedings are open to the public



Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

January 2025

Committee Officer: committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: Date of next meeting: 12 February 2025

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Items for Decision

1. Declarations of Interest

See guidance below.

2. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet Member's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

3. Petitions and Public Address

Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.

Requests to speak must be submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting. Requests to speak should be sent to committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

4. Formal Approval of Schools Funding Formula 2025/26 (Pages 1 - 6)

Cabinet Member: Children, Education and Young People's Services

Forward Plan Ref: 2024/360

Contact: Jane Billington, Strategic Finance Business Partner – Children's Services
(Jane.Billington@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Report by Director of Children's Services (**CMDCEYPS5**).

The Chair of Council has agreed that this item will be exempt from Scrutiny call-in.

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to

a) Approve the final funding formula for 2025/26 for submission to DfE

This follows consultation with the Schools Forum which agreed that OCC will continue to fund schools at the National Funding Formula level. Any surplus funding as a result of the application of the APT will be used to support mainstream schools in their approaches to inclusion.

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

Members Code – Other registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships

- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.
- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Members Code – Non-registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

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Divisions Affected - ALL

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

21 JANUARY 2025

FORMAL APPROVAL OF SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2025/26

Report by Director of Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to

a) Approve the final funding formula for 2025/26 for submission to DfE

This follows consultation with the Schools Forum which agreed that OCC will continue to fund schools at the National Funding Formula level. Any surplus funding as a result of the application of the APT will be used to support mainstream schools in their approaches to inclusion.

Executive Summary

1. The final funding formula for schools and academies for 2025/26 needs to be formally approved politically before submission to the DfE in January 2025. Schools Forum has been consulted in development of the funding formula for 2025/26 as a statutory consultee, but the decision on the final formula is made by the local authority.
2. The basis of the allocation through the National Funding Formula is determined by Central Government.

Introduction

3. The local authority is required to set the funding formula for all pupils of statutory school age for each financial year. This includes all maintained schools and academies (including free schools, studio schools and university technical colleges). It is established after consultation with Schools and Schools Forum about any proposed changes.
4. The local authority is responsible for making the final decisions on the formula but must gain political approval before the final formula for the 2025/26 financial year is submitted to the Department for Education (DfE). This must be completed in January 2025.

The National Funding Formula

5. In 2018/19 the government implemented national funding formulae for the Schools, High Needs and the Central Services Schools Block (CSSB) with local discretion on implementation up to and including for 2025/26.
6. 2018/19 saw the introduction of the national funding formula (NFF) for schools. This reform meant that for the first time, school funding was distributed to Local Authorities according to a formula based on the individual needs and characteristics of every school in the country. Local Authorities continue to be responsible for distributing money between schools.
7. Oxfordshire has consulted with all schools and academies and Schools Forum annually and it was agreed to implement the NFF as closely as possible subject to affordability.
8. The DfE has made some changes to the National Funding Formula for 2025/26, as follows:
 - Rolling the 2024 to 2025 teachers' pay additional grant (TPAG), the teachers' pensions employer contribution grant (TPECG) 2024, and the core schools budget grant (CSBG) into the NFF.
 - adding an amount representing what schools receive through the grant into their baselines
 - adding the value of the lump sum, basic per pupil rates and free school meals Ever 6 (FSM6) parts of the grant onto the respective factors in the NFF
 - uplifting the minimum per pupil values by the TPAG & TPECG basic per-pupil values, and an additional amount which represents the average amount of funding schools receive from the FSM6 and lump sum parts of the grants
 - Further increases to NFF factor values (on top of the amounts added for the TPAG, TPECG and annualised CSBG), as can be afforded following the settlement of the core schools budget for 2025 to 2026.
 - Technical changes to the split sites factor which was first introduced in the 2024 to 2025 NFF. In particular, the transitional floor protection that was included in 2024 to 2025 has now been removed. That protection was only needed in 2024 to 2025 to ensure that any school losing out from the formularisation itself was protected through the NFF floor.

Outcome of Consultation with Schools and Schools Forum

9. Consultation with schools was carried out from 19 December 2024 to 8 January 2025. The results of the consultation were discussed at the Schools' Forum meeting on 20 January 2025.
10. Schools were consulted on options for adjusting the national funding formula to provide the target contribution, reducing the £0.660m Growth Fund budget was a preferred option and is affordable due to balances so that has been reduced. Following that the per pupil factors have been adjusted proportionally to mitigate the remaining budget gap.

Oxfordshire Funding Formula

11. The School Funding Formula for 2025/26 has been modelled to replicate the NFF, in so far as is affordable.
12. In line with timescales in previous years, the DSG settlement was announced on 18 December 2024.
13. At the meeting of Schools Forum on 20 January 2025, Schools' Forum will be consulted on a model that delivers the National Funding Formula including a one-off nil contribution to the Growth Fund, in line with approaches taken in previous years, such as 2023-24 where the growth fund was reduced.

The formula factor rates for Oxfordshire are shown in table 1 below.

Table 1 - Schools Funding Formula 2025-26		
Funding Factors - Full National Funding Formula (NFF) with ACA	NFF Primary Unit Value 2025-26	NFF Secondary Unit Value 2025-26
Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) – A multiplier that is applied to basic per pupil, additional needs and formula elements of school led funding for Oxfordshire	1.02314	1.02314
1. Basic per-pupil funding		
Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) - Basic Entitlement	£3,930.70	
Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) - Basic Entitlement KS3		£5,539.97
Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) - Basic Entitlement KS4		£6,246.01
2. Deprivation		
Free School Meal eligibility	£505.77	£505.77
Ever6 FSM	£1,083.06	£1,588.83
Targeted Deprivation – IDACI Band F	£240.11	£347.40
Targeted Deprivation – IDACI Band E	£291.20	£459.79
Targeted Deprivation – IDACI Band D	£454.68	£648.82
Targeted Deprivation – IDACI Band C	£500.66	£710.12
Targeted Deprivation – IDACI Band B	£531.31	£761.21
Targeted Deprivation – IDACI Band A	£699.90	£970.67
3. English as an additional Language (EAL)	£607.95	£1,629.70
4. Pupil Mobility	£986.00	£1,415.13
5. Low Prior Attainment	£1,200.57	£1,823.84
6. Lump sum - as NFF (amended for 0.5% transfer below)	£148,457.61	£148,457.61
7. Sparsity	£58,728.24	£85,329.88
8. Split Sites - (ACA not applicable)	As Actual Rates	
11. Rates	As Actual Rates	
13. Exceptional Premises factors	As Actual Rents	
14. Minimum per pupil level (MPPL)	£4,955.00	
- Key Stage 3		£6,221.00
- Key Stage 4		£6,831.00
Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)	0.0%	
Growth Fund Contribution	£0	

14. Feedback from the consultation with Schools' Forum will be presented verbally to the Cabinet Decision meeting.
15. The amounts allocated by each factor in the above table are subject to further checks and amendments leading up to and following submission to the DfE by 22 January 2025

Financial Implications

16. The report deals with the funding formula for schools and academies for 2025/26 and there are no further financial or staffing implications discussed in this report. Schools and academies are responsible for managing the deployment of the delegated funding they receive.

Comments checked by:

Jane Billington, Strategic Finance Business Partner – Children’s Services
Jane.Billington@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Legal Implications

17. There are no legal implications.

Comments checked by:

Paul Grant, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer
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Staff Implications

18. There are no new or additional staffing implications.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

19. Where the local authority continues to have discretion in funding decisions made, priority will be given to the needs of vulnerable pupils and the Council’s aims of raising attainment, narrowing the attainment gap and safeguarding children.

Sustainability Implications

20. There are no new or additional sustainability implications.

Risk Management

21. The key risk is the affordability of the formula within the funding envelope of the grant and that has been considered in the main body of the report.

Lisa Lyons
Director of Children’s Services

January 2025

Contact Officer: Jane Billington
Strategic Finance Business Partner – Children’s Services
January 2025

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