

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET 6 December 2021</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) School Funding 2022/23 Formula Factors</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Debbie Jones, Interim Corporate Director of Children, Young People &amp; Education Phillip Herd (Interim) Head of Finance - Children, Young People and Learning</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Alisa Flemming – Cabinet Member for Children, Young People &amp; Learning</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>

#### **SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

Dedicated School Grant (DSG) is a ring fenced grant of which the Schools Block element is used to fund individual schools budgets in maintained schools and academies.

This report provides the basis for the funding allocation across Croydon individual school budgets approved by Schools Forum on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. This paper is to seek additional Cabinet approval prior to updating the Authority Proforma (APT) and subsequent submission to ESFA by the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 deadline.

The need for cabinet approval is in line with the DSG governance arrangements referred to in session 34 of the ESFA operational guide published on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. It clearly states that the local authority is responsible for making the final decision on the formula factors

#### **COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2020-24**

The effective allocation of the DSG Schools Block to individual schools supports the provision of sufficient and best quality school places in the right place helping to ensure all children and young people achieve their full potential.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Approval of the formula factors to be used to set the 2022/23 schools' budgets will determine the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) per pupil for the schools and the total funds (Schools Block allocation for Croydon for 2022/23) to be allocated to individual schools.

#### **FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: 5021CAB**

The notice of the decision will specify that the decision may not be implemented until after 13.00 hours on the 6th working day following the day on which the decision was taken unless referred to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet is recommended to

- 1.1 Approve the provisional funding formula for Croydon schools for the financial year 2022/23 for maintained schools, and the academic year 2022/23 for academies, in line with the recommendations of the School Forum:
  - a) to agree for the phased implementation of the National Funding Formula in 2022/23 to ease the potential turbulence of moving to a hard formula at a later stage; and
  - b) to agree the funding formula factors set out in Table 2 and paragraphs 4.5.1 to 5.5 of this report already voted on at schools forum.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In October 2021 the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published the 2022/23 school revenue guidance for local authorities and schools forums. The guidance confirmed the arrangements for distributing funding through the National Funding Formula (NFF) for schools, early years, high needs and central schools services.
- 2.2 This report outlines the factors which are proposed for the setting of the schools budgets for 2022/23 through the Authority Proforma Tool (APT). These factors have been consulted on through Schools Forum meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October and was finally voted on and approved on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 at forum with the exception of the PFI factor.
- 2.3 Final values per factor will be calculated after the total funding available via the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is confirmed by government. The final allocation tool is expected to be issued and then approved by School Forum in December 2021.
- 2.4 The Local Authority (LA) is required to submit the approved formula by the set deadline (21<sup>st</sup> January 2022) by the Department for Education (DfE).
- 2.5 The DfE require the proposed formula for 2022/23 to be politically approved prior to APT submission. This paper therefore sets out the proposals and final agreed optional factors.

### **3. BACKGROUND - SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA**

3.1 The NFF came into effect in April 2018 for schools, high needs, early years and central services block. The schools block NFF calculates a notional allocation at a school level and then aggregates these to produce the LA level allocations. The DfE have confirmed the intention to move to a hardening of the individual factors between now and 2024/25 however for 2022/23, LAs will continue to be allowed to determine final funding allocations for schools through a local formula.

### **3.2 COMPARATIVE RATES OF FUNDING ACROSS OUTER LONDON**

3.2.1 Data analysis into the baseline funding per pupil for both primary and secondary schools show no direct correlation between levels of deprivation recorded per local authority to the amount funded per pupil receivable.

3.2.2 As shown in appendix 3, although Croydon is has 38.39% level of deprivation for primary and 29.36% for secondary pupil, the local authority is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively in terms of level of baseline funding when compared to the all the nineteen outer London boroughs. One significant reason is the historical funding baseline which appears to put the LA at a disadvantaged position.

3.3 Schools Forum made the decision to move closer to the NFF on some factors by taking the mid-point between the previous year's factor rate and the NFF rate. This paper continues on this path towards NFF and sets out two options:

3.4 Croydon's School Forum was presented with two options: move to the NFF in 2022/23 or make a partial transition to ease the potential turbulence of moving to a 'hard formula' at a later stage. Forum had maintained a transitional approach with involves a combination of complete adoption of NFF in some cases and average (mid-point) adoption in certain factors.

3.5 Schools Forum considered a paper on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) School Funding Formula – 2022/23 Formula Factors at their meeting on 8 November 2021 (Appendix 1) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) School Funding Formula – 2022/23 Split Sites factor 8 (appendix 2)

3.6 The schools block is ring-fenced in 2022 to 2023, but local authorities can transfer up to 0.5% of their schools block funding into another block, with the approval of their schools forum. However, this flexibility has not been sought for 2022/23.

Croydon did not rely on any further transfers from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in our DSG Deficit Recovery Plan as that was

- (i) counterproductive to the SEND strategy with the emphasis on increasing inclusivity in mainstream schools; and
- (ii) any such transfer would require year on year approval and including any reliance of this in the recovery plan was presumptuous.

3.7 Both of those conditions remain present, in addition to the new consideration relating to significant increases in both the Schools Block and the High Needs Blocks for 2022/23. This latter consideration has enabled Croydon to review the

current DSG Deficit Recovery Plan which now does not depend on any transfer from the Schools Block in future for the same reasons as outlined in (i) above.

- 3.8 The decision taken by School Forum regarding the all optional factors at the 8th November 2021 meeting has been indicated below in red.
- 3.9 Appendix 1 and 2 of this report represents the reports presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> November meeting and voted on.

#### **4 Dedicated School Grant allocation**

- 4.1 The provisional NFF allocation for 2022/23, published in July 2021, is shown below in Table 1. The movement shows an increase of £5.031m from the 2021/22 final allocation.
- 4.2 The Teachers pensions & the teachers' pay award grants was rolled into the school's block funding since last year.

**Table 1 Schools Block provisional allocation 2022/23**

	<b>Total 2021/22 final allocation</b>	<b>Provisional funding in 2022/23</b>	<b>Movement</b>
Schools block allocation	£281,312,962	£286,333,669	£5,020,707

#### **4.3 Formula factors**

The formula factors used in Croydon which received Schools Forum approval at the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 are summarised here in Table 2.

**Table 2 Formula factors used in Croydon 2021-22**

<b>Para No.</b>	<b>Formula factor</b>	<b>Approval type -2022/23</b>
4.3	Minimum per pupil funding	To note (compulsory factor and rate) ( Need to add a row for split site – No decision needed.
4.4	Age weighted pupil unit	To note (compulsory factor and local rate) – No decision needed.
4.5.1	Deprivation - IDACI	To agree to continue to use as a method of calculating deprivation; To agree rates to be used (compulsory / discretionary)
4.5.2	Deprivation - FSM	To agree to continue to use as a method of calculating deprivation; To agree continue to follow NFF rates (compulsory / discretionary)
4.6.1	Low prior attainment	To agree (optional / discretionary)
4.7.1	English as an additional language	To agree (optional / discretionary)
4.8.1	Looked after children	To agree (optional / discretionary)
4.9.1	Lump Sum	To agree (optional / discretionary)
5.1	Mobility	To agree (optional / discretionary)

5.2	Private Finance Initiative - RPI	Compulsory factor as have one but with an (optional / discretionary)
5.2	Private Finance Initiative – base rate increase	To agree (optional / discretionary)
5.3	Minimum Funding Guarantee	To agree (compulsory)
5.4	Growth	Criteria for growth agreed SF 5th October 2020
5.5	Split Site	To agree (optional / discretionary)

#### 4.4 Minimum per pupil level funding

Minimum per pupil funding level is set by the NFF to ensure that each pupil attracts a basic level of funding thus ensure that if no other factor is relevant that there is a minimum level each pupil at each school phase should be funded for.

**Table 3 Rates for Minimum per pupil level funding**

School phase	NFF & Croydon rate per pupil 2020/21	NFF & Croydon rate per pupil 2021/22	NFF & Croydon 2022/23 rate per pupil	Variance
Primary school	£3,750	£4,180	£4,265	£85
Secondary school	£5,000	£5,465	£5,576	£111

4.4.1 Schools Forum was asked to note the mandatory minimum per pupil level funding rates for 2022/23.

#### 4.5 Age weighted pupil unit (AWPU)

The funding formulae will calculate our rate of AWPU after all the other factors amounts have been allocated. The amount will be dependent on our final allocation from the DfE in December. The AWPU rates for prior years are below. Our initial modelling of the indicative allocations shows an expected increase in the AWPU rates for 2022/23.

**Table 4 AWPU rates**

School phase	2020-21 rate per pupil (@NFF/local midpoint)	2021-22 rate per pupil (@NFF/local midpoint)	2022/23 proposed rate per pupil	AWPU at NFF rates	AWPU at midpoint rates
Primary (Yrs R-6)	£3,396.13	£3,734.33	TBC	£3,893.25	£3,914.34
Key Stage 3 (Yrs 7-9)	£4,389.41	£4,798.12	TBC	£5,002.88	£5,030.05
Key Stage 4 (Yrs 10-11)	£4,689.89	£5,112.15	TBC	£5,335.65	£5,365.31

4.5.1 Schools Forum was asked to note that the final AWPU can only be determined after the LA receives the final allocation from the DfE and after all other factors have been distributed. The figures in table 4 is for illustrative purpose only based on the current data.

## 4.6 Deprivation

4.6.1 This is a compulsory factor and is made up of 3 elements; free school meals (FSM), free school meals 6 (FSM6) and the income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI). Schools Forum can choose to use free school meals (FSM and FSM6) and/or IDACI.

4.6.2 For 2022/23 the DfE have set revised IDACI banding rate amounts. The NFF rates are higher than Croydon's, therefore a move to NFF increases the money to schools with impacted by deprivation. The intention is for this factor to be moved to a 'hard formula' to introduce nationally consistent factor values.

4.6.3 Table 5 sets out the NFF IDACI rates per primary and secondary pupil alongside the midpoint rate from the 2021/22 IDACI rate used in Croydon. Based on the rates in the table, Croydon would distribute a total of £10.8m using the NFF rates and £10.1m using the midpoint.

4.6.4 See Appendix A for definition of FSM6 relates to and the IDACI movements

**Table 5 IDACI rates**

School phase	Primary schools			Secondary schools		
	2021/22 IDACI rate per primary pupil used in Croydon	2022/23 national rate per primary pupil	Midpoint IDACI rate per primary pupil	2021/22 IDACI rate per secondary pupil used in Croydon	2022/23 national rate per secondary pupil	Midpoint IDACI rate per secondary pupil
IDACI Band F	£203	£220	£212	£284	£320	£302
IDACI Band E	£253	£270	£262	£397	£425	£411
IDACI Band D	£383	£420	£402	£512	£595	£554
IDACI Band C	£426	£460	£443	£575	£650	£613
IDACI Band B	£481	£490	£486	£670	£700	£685
IDACI Band A	£717	£640	£679	£1,015	£890	£953

### (1) IDACI

4.5.1 Use IDACI as a method of calculating deprivation by:

- (a) Moving to the national average rate set by in the NFF rate per pupil\* or
- (b) Moving to the midpoint rate between Croydon 2021/22 local rates and NFF;
- (c) Keeping IDACI Band 'A' the same as last year's allocation but move all other bands to the midway point
- (d) Keeping the rate the same as last year's

**Decision** : - (All 14 eligible voted for option c)

### (2) Free School Meals (FSM)

Schools receive funding for all FSM eligible pupils through this factor. In 2021/22 Croydon followed the NFF rates and distributed £16.7m through this factor. The rates per school phase varies for each of the two elements (FSM rates and FSM6). Based on 2021/22 school data and using the NFF rates, Croydon would distribute (£17.9m) £6.4m for FSM and £11.5m for FSM6.

**Table 6 FSM rates**

School phase	2021/22 rate per pupil - FSM	2021/22 rate per pupil – FSM6	2022/23 NFF rate per pupil - FSM	2022/23 NFF rate per pupil –FSM6
Primary school	£460	£575	£470	£590
Secondary school	£460	£840	£470	£865

4.5.2 Use free schools' meals by adopting the national average rate set by in the NFF rate per pupil for FSM and FSM6 – following the methodology used in 2021-22 –

**Decision** - All were in agreement to adopting the national average rate set by in the NFF rate per pupil.

#### 4.6 Low Prior Attainment

This is an optional factor which Croydon will use again this year. It is a rate per pupil per school phase and is set locally. In the 2021/22 allocation Croydon distributed £14.5m through this factor. The NFF rates are higher and would result in £17.2m being distributed through this factor, offsetting reductions in Deprivation funding should the lower NFF deprivation rates be used. The midpoint would result in £15.8m being distributed. The APT tool automatically provides the number of pupils who are eligible (based off the prior year census data). See Appendix A for definition of Low Prior Attainment and the pupils in this category

**Table 7 Low Prior Attainment rates**

School phase	2021/22 midpoint rate per pupil	2022/23 NFF rate per pupil	2022/23 midpoint rate per pupil
Primary school	£908	£1,130	£1,019
Secondary school	£1,524	£1,710	£1,617

4.6.1 The Low Prior Attainment agreed rate should:

- (a) Move to the national average rate set by in the NFF rate per pupil or
- (b) Move to the midpoint rate between Croydon local rates and NFF.

**Decision:** (All 15 eligible voted for option a)

#### 4.7 English as an additional language (EAL)

This is an optional factor but has been used in the Croydon local formula. This rate per pupil per phase had been set locally. In the 2021/22 allocation Croydon distributed £4.9m through this factor. Using the NFF rate for 2022/23, due to significantly lower pupil numbers shown as EAL in the APT (from 7,741 to 2,648), £1.7m would be distributed. At the midpoint rate, £1.68m would be distributed.

**Table 8 EAL rates**

School phase	2021/22 Local rate per pupil (@NFF/local midpoint)	2022/23 NFF rate per pupil	2022/23 midpoint rate per pupil
Primary school	£539	£565	£552
Secondary school	£1,503	£1,530	£1,517

4.7.1 The English as an additional language factor rate should:

- (a) Move to the national average rate set by in the NFF rate per pupil or
- (b) Move to the midpoint rate between Croydon local rates and NFF.

**Decision:** (All 15 eligible voted for option a)

#### 4.8 Looked after Children

This rate per pupil per school phase is set locally. Using the 2021/22 local rate Croydon distributed £167k through this factor. There is no guided NFF rate. Based on present figures in 2022/23 the distribution would be marginally lower at £165k.

**Table 9 Looked after Children rate**

School phase	2022/23 proposed rate per pupil	Number of pupils
Primary school	£500	145
Secondary school	£500	192

4.8.1 The Looked after Children factor should:

- (a) Be maintained at the existing rates per pupil and
- (b) Be de-delegated/allocated to the funding to Virtual Schools team directly

**Decision:** (All 15 eligible voted for option a and b)

#### 4.9 Lump Sum

Each school receives a lump sum. In 2021/22, the local lump sum per school was £140,000 and resulted in a distribution of £15.3m. The published NFF rate is £121,300 for Primary schools and £130,650 for Secondary schools. Using the NFF would result in a distribution of £13.4m and at the mid-point rate it would be £14.3m. The 2021-22 cost using a £140k allocation per school costs £15.260m. Since all schools are paid the lump sum factor at the same rate regardless of size this has been the way in which Croydon has supported its smaller schools.

**Table 10 Lump sum rates**

School phase	2021/22 Local rate per school	2022/23 NFF rate per school	Midpoint rate per school
Secondary school	£140,000	£121,300	£130,650
Primary school	£140,000	£121,300	£130,650

#### 4.9.1 The lump sum factor should:

- (a) Be decreased to the NFF rate of £121k for 2022/23
- (b) Be set at the midpoint rate between Croydon and NFF e.g. £130,650 or
- (c) Be retained at the higher rate as per prior years of £140,000 per school

**Decision:** (All 15 eligible voted for option c)

## 5. Mobility

The mobility factor allocates funding to schools with a high proportion of pupils who first join on a non-standard date. Mobility funding was previously allocated on the basis of historic spend. However, for 2020/21, the DfE developed a new methodology that enables calculation of allocations of this funding on a formulaic basis. Rather than relying on a single census, the methodology involved tracking individual pupils using their unique pupil ID through censuses from the past 3 years. If the first census when the pupil was in the school was a spring or summer census, they are considered a mobile pupil. To be eligible for mobility funding, the proportion of mobile pupils a school has must be above the threshold of 6%. A per pupil amount will then be allocated to all mobile pupils above that threshold.

See Appendix A for definition of Mobility and the schools and school phases impacted

**Table 11 Mobility rates**

School phase	2021/22 Local rate (@NFF/local midpoint)	2022/23 NFF rate	Midpoint rate per school	NOR eligible	How many schools would be impacted
Primary school	£807	£925	£866	184	28
Secondary school	£1,202	£1,330	£1,266	61	5

#### 5.1 The Mobility factor should:

- (a) Move to the national average rate set by in the NFF rate per pupil or
- (b) Move to the midpoint rate between Croydon local rates and NFF.

**Decision:** (All 15 eligible voted for option a)

## 5.2 Private Finance Initiative

Croydon has one PFI school and therefore uses this factor. The purpose of the factor is to fund the additional costs to a school of being in a PFI contract. Following a schools' block working group meeting we are expecting more information on this factor from the school/Trust involved and so need to return to this at a future meeting.

#### 5.2.1 The PFI factor should:

Cabinet would be expected to approve the same amount approved last year amounting to £607,831. (RPI index for 2022/23 will be £617,313) as the maximum level for the PFI factor.

a) Be considered at the November meeting of Croydon Schools Forum

**Decision – Not taken yet.**

It agreed to discuss this on the 23 November 2021 Schools Block meeting as a single agenda item. Adam Browne from Oasis will attend this meeting as there were positive changes in that Oasis is requesting less money. The paper will follow onto the 6 December Schools Forum meeting.

What has been asked for is that all the information to be brought as one paper to the Schools Block meeting on 23 November 2021 at 10am in St Mary’s School.

**5.3 Minimum funding Guarantee (MFG)**

MFG protects schools’ budgets from large changes in funding based on factor changes. It protects on £/per pupil basis but does not protect against a fall in pupil numbers.

In 2021/22, the DfE changed the levels at which the MFG may be applied in local formulae to between +0.5% and +2.0%. All of Croydon schools have reached and exceeded these increases using the NFF rates. Proposed to keep the 2021/22 limit of +0.5% in 2022/23.

**Table 13 MFG rates**

Year	MFG	Using NFF rate for all factors
2016/17	£11,425,730	
2017/18	£3,861,329	
2018/19	£2,362,522	
2019/20	£1,143,179	
2020/21	£670,987	
2021/22	£87,337	
2022/23	TBA	£101,196

5.3.1 Schools Forum was asked to note the previous approval to set MFG at +0.5%.

**5.4 Growth**

The criteria for growth funding for schools was reviewed and approved by Schools Forum on 5th October 2020. The rates for various parts of the growth fund will be applied to the schools that meet the growth criteria and have been confirmed by the Schools Admissions Team.

**Table 14 Growth rates**

Year	Growth
2017/18	£3,002,894
2018/19	£3,365,680
2019/20	£2,279,811
2020/21	£1,708,617
2021/22	£1,914,299
2022/23	£1,369,581

5.4.1 Schools Forum are requested to note the above and agree that this sum be allocated to schools that meet the growth criteria.

## 5.5 Split site factor

The split site factor was previously part of the growth fund and at the meeting of October 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 Forum agreed that it should, once again, become part of the main formula. There is an associated paper [ITEM 3] at this meeting to explain the possibilities of allocating the split site factor.

5.5.1 After considering paper 3 the split site factor should:

- a) Be allocated according to Croydon's previous methodology used when this factor was part of growth fund - £35k per school.
- b) Be allocated according to the criteria used by Waltham Forest - different rates for primary and secondary;
- c) Be allocated according to the criteria used by Southwark Council - £60.4k per school;
- d) Be allocated according to the criteria used by the London Borough of Sutton & Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames - £50k per school

**Decision:** (12 eligible in favour of option d with 3 Abstention) –  
Option (d) accepted.

## 6. **CONSULTATION**

6.1 Croydon Schools Forum has a statutory consultative and advisory role in respect of school funding and consultation took place at the meeting of 4th October 2021. The meetings of Schools Forum have reviewed and modelling on the options proposed to set the above factors at the proposed levels. The formula proposals have been communicated to schools via the Schools Forum papers. The responsibility for determining and approving the funding formula rests with the LA.

## 7. **FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1 This report asks Members to accept the recommendation of Croydon Schools Forum on the funding formula for Croydon schools for the financial year 2022/23 for maintained schools, and the academic year 2022/23 for academies.

7.2 The school funding formula is used to determine how part of the Council's DSG allocation, in particular the Schools Block, is distributed to Croydon maintained schools and academies. The individual school budget shares determined by the formula represent a significant proportion of the annual revenue funding for maintained schools for the financial year, and funding for academies for the academic year. The funding for maintained schools is distributed through the LA, while the ESFA uses the formula to allocate funding direct to Croydon academies.

7.3 The final 2022/23 DSG allocation is expected to be published in late December 2021.

7.4 Whilst acknowledging the financial position of the Council in respect of the General Fund no direct bearing on this decision as this approval is to determine

the funding formula in order to passport the Schools Block element of the ring fenced Dedicated School Grant, to be used for the purposes of providing education, to the borough's schools in accordance with *The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations* and DfE guidance.

Approved by: Matt Davis, Interim Director of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer.

## **8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Council's interim Director of Law and Governance that the Local Government Finance Act 1992 section 31A places the Council under a statutory duty to set a balanced budget and to take any remedial action as required in-year.
- 8.2 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is paid to the Council by the Secretary of State under the Education Act 2003 section 14.
- 8.3 Details of the national funding formula (NFF) are contained in various DfE publications.
- 8.4 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulation 2020 which came into force on 29 November 2020 introduced a new accounting treatment for DSG deficits for the financial years 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23. Any outstanding deficit at the end of this period will, as currently drafted, reduce un-earmarked general fund reserves in the financial year commencing 1 April 2023.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Acting Director of Law

## **9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 9.1 There are no direct Human Resources considerations arising from this report. If there are subsequent proposals that affect the workforce as a result of the budget limit set, consultation and planning must be in line with HR policies and procedures and HR advice must be sought from the assigned provider. Council HR should be kept informed of proposals.

Approved by: Deborah Calliste, Head of HR (Adult Social Care & Health), on behalf of the Interim Chief People Officer

## **10. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 10.1 The funding allocations and formulae are set nationally and are therefore already subject to an equality assessment. The Council is also committed to the government's vision - an education system that works for everyone. No matter where they live, whatever their background, ability or need, children should have access to an excellent education that unlocks talent and creates opportunity. We want all children to reach their full potential and to succeed in adult life.

- 10.2 In setting the Education Budget 2022/23 the Council has taken into account the need to ensure targeted funding is available for work on raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils who are likely to share a “protected characteristic” (as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and close the gap between them and their peers.
- 10.3 The Council will ensure that the system for distributing funding is fair in order to support the life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people; a fairer funding system will help provide all schools and all areas with the resources needed to provide an excellent education for all pupils irrespective of their background, ability, need, or where in the country they live.
- 10.4 This will help the Council meet its equality objective “to improve attainment levels for white working class and Black Caribbean heritages, those in receipt of Free School Meals and Looked after Children, particularly at Key Stage 2 including those living in six most deprived wards.”

Approved by: Equalities Manager Denise McCauseland

## **11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 11.1 There are no direct implications contained in this report.

## **12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

- 12.1 There are no direct implications contained in this report.

## **13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION**

- 13.1 The Education and Skills Funding Agency require the proposed 2022/23 school funding formula to be politically approved by mid-January 2022, prior to the submission of the authority pro-forma tool, which specifies Croydon’s schools funding formulae, by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. There is no direct action requested at this point.

## **14. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 14.1 Given the provisional allocations there is no requirement for additional action at this time.

## **15. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 **WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF ‘PERSONAL DATA’?**  
NO

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Phillip Herd (Interim) Head of Finance – Children, Young People and Learning

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

- Appendix 1: Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) School Funding Formula – 2022/23 Formula Factors
- Appendix 2: Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) School Funding Formula – 2022/23 Split Sites factor
- Appendix 3: Correlation of baseline funding per pupil to level of deprivation within outer authorities

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None