
Manchester City Council

Report for Resolution

Report to: **Schools Forum**

Subject: **Special Schools Funding Review**

Report of: **Directorate Finance Lead – Children’s and Schools**

Summary

This report provides Forum with an update on progress made to date on the current Special Schools funding review and will also outline planned actions moving forward showing the next steps and approach required to finalise the change process.

Recommendations

All Forum members are asked to note and comment on the timeline for the planned consultation on changes to Special School Funding 2020/21 onwards.

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

13th May 2019: Schools Forum - Update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the High Needs Strategic Review

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to state and explain progress made in respect of the Special Schools Funding review and outline the finalised action plan for moving forward.

2. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 2.1 Engagement began with Special Schools head teachers during early March assessing the wider implications of high needs funding. These engagement meetings allowed the Local Authority to better understand the different settings within Manchester in greater detail.
- 2.2 The Local Authority has consolidated pupil and costing data from Special Schools and Manchester services in order to produce a reasonable and effective funding model. The Local Authority is currently undertaking options analysis in order to assess different allocation techniques. Agenda item 4 in September 2019 Schools Forum includes a proposal to allocate part of the high needs block increase for 2020/21 to inflationary uplifts.
- 2.3 The table one sets out the review's action plan below.

Table one: Special School Formula action plan

Timeline	Deadline
Options Analysis	23 rd September 2019
Summarise key findings/models and disseminate to Special School head teachers	27 th September 2019
Initiate Consultation with Special Schools	7 th October 2019
Deadline for Consultation Returns	8 th November 2019
December Forum report summarising Outcomes	16 th December 2019
Department for Education (DfE) Settlement for financial year 2020/21	21 st December 2019

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Schools Forum is asked to note the intention to undertake a formula review consultation with Special Schools.