

For the LA to complete

Local Authority Name	Hammersmith & Fulham
Funding year request relates to	2024/25
Type of disappication	Schools Block Transfer
<i>If a block transfer - the % block transfer</i>	1%
<i>If a block transfer - cash value of the block transfer</i>	
Explanation for why the disappication is required	<p>Proposing a 1% transfer, to address sustainability of the block.</p> <p>There are five key drivers that have led to the request:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To address budget pressure from cost inflation since the Safety Valve agreement. 2) Lower than originally forecast HNB funding increases now assumed than originally modelled per DfE advice During the Safety Valve negotiations we were asked to model a 8% increase across the 5 year Safety Valve profile. The DfE subsequently provided updated funding assumptions and in an email from the DfE Safety Valve Team on the 14 January 2022 we were asked to set out the impact as a result of the changes in assumptions and how this subsequently impacts on our ability to eliminate our deficit. The Council modelled the expenditure forecast to show the revised funding assumptions of a 5% increase in 2023/24 and 3% beyond that which have posed some considerable challenge. Following the ongoing work in embedding our updated finance modelling and the revised High Needs Block funding assumptions, we have undertaken significant work to ensure our expenditure is within our annual allocation. We have mitigated the movements to deliver in year balance positions, assuming approval of ongoing block transfers. The need to respond to the revised funding assumptions eliminates the Authority's flexibility which was modelled into the original Safety Valve action plan. 3) Special MFG at 3% and Special Provision Supplementary Grant from 2023/24 Financial Year 3% had not been explicitly modelled for Special Schools in relation to MFG, nor was the additional grant for Special provision at 3.4% which effectively halved the increased funding that we received in overall terms and had not been factored into the original forecast. 4) Maintains the continued investment of High Needs into H&F mainstream provision. Our transformation programme is centred around early identification and intervention; providing the capacity and resources to be able to meet need earlier and reduce escalation to high cost statutory processes. As such within our Safety Valve forecast we have profiled ongoing investment in these areas. The disappication is required to create the headroom for the continued investment in these offers including the Joint Communication Team and Autism Education Trust, in the context of the broader pressures. 5) Local area placement sufficiency The Council has undertaken a SEND Sufficiency Review to ensure the sufficiency of local education places over the medium to long term, reducing reliance on more costly out of borough placements. A key recommendation of the SEN Sufficiency Review is the creation of additional local provision, however it will take time for this provision to come on stream; during which time other efficiencies as well as the block transfer are required to mitigate this pressure.
Engagement with the schools forum and consultation with the schools affected	
Has the schools forum been consulted?	Planned for October 2023 and November 2023
Does the schools forum agree with this request?	TBC
Has the schools forum voted?	Expected at extraordinary Schools Forum meeting November 2023
Which groups of representatives voted? (maintained schools, academies, etc)	TBC
What was the split in votes?	TBC
What was the date of the schools forum meeting? (DD/MM/YY)	Expected 14/11/2023 - subject to agreement
Was the meeting quorate?	TBC
Please provide link(s)/attach to the minutes showing schools forum agreement, or details of where this can be found in attached documentation.	TBC
If this has not yet been discussed with Schools forum, what date will this be? (DD/MM/YY)	03/10/23 and 14/11/23
Please provide supporting information and findings following consultation with local schools, including the views of those schools directly affected by the proposals	TBC
Detailed information that has not been included above	
Please provide any other detailed information you would like to include which has not been included above	