

| | |
|--|--|
| Local Authority Name | Hammersmith and Fulham Council |
| Funding year request relates to | 2026/27 |
| Type of disapplication | Schools Block Transfer |
| <i>If a block transfer - the % block transfer against your 26-27 DSG allocation</i> | 1% |
| <i>If a block transfer - cash value of the block transfer</i> | TBC |
| Was this agreed in your Safety Valve Plan? | Yes |
| Please provide an explanation for why the disapplication is required. If this request involves a block transfer, please also explain how the additional funding will be used. | <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> <p>1) To address budget pressure from significant cost inflation since the Safety Valve agreement. CPI has increased by 26% since April 2020 - March 2025, against a 60% increase in EHCP's during that time in H&F compared to 64% nationally.</p> <p>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 contain expenditure within our annual allocation. The need to respond to the revised funding assumptions eliminates the Authority's flexibility which was modelled into the original Safety Valve action plan.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4) Maintains the continued investment in creating inclusive 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 including the continued delivery of the early intervention speech and language service via the Joint Communication Team. The disapplication is required to create the headroom for the continued investment in these offers, in the context of the broader pressures. Without this investment there is a risk of need escalating to specialist service unnecessarily, resulting in increased costs and pressures. The investment has supported needs being met in a more cost effective way, with H&F now sitting 0.7% below the London % of plans where Speech and Language is the primary need. ~ £595k</p> <p>5) Local area placement sufficiency</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>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. The creation of additional Units/ ARPS has and continues to require upfront investment to be affordable; during which time other efficiencies as well as the block transfer are required to mitigate this pressure.</p> |
|--|---|

Engagement with the schools forum and consultation with the schools affected

| | |
|---|--|
| Has the schools forum been consulted? | Yes disapplication request shared with Schools Forum before decision. There will also be a short consultation with schools later in the Autumn term on budget principles following the release of operational guidance and provisional budgets 2025/26 before final budget model agreed in new year. |
| Does the schools forum agree with this request? | |
| Has the schools forum voted? | |
| Which groups of representatives voted? (maintained schools, academies, etc) | |
| What was the split in votes? | |
| What was the date of the schools forum meeting? (DD/MM/YY) | 13/11/2025 |
| Was the meeting quorate? | |
| Please provide link(s)/attach to the minutes showing schools forum agreement, or details of where this can be found in attached documentation. | https://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=473&MId=8010&Ver=4 |
| If this has not yet been discussed with Schools forum, what date will this be? (DD/MM/YY) | N/A See Above |
| Please provide supporting information and findings following consultation with local schools, including the views of those schools directly | |

| | |
|---|--|
| affected by the proposals | |
| 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 | Please see accompanying Equalities Impact Assessment |