



Complete Agenda

Democratic Service
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

SCHOOLS FINANCE FORUM

Date and Time

3.45 pm, MONDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 2024

Location

Virtual Meeting

Contact Point

Rhodri Jones

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SCHOOLS FINANCE FORUM MEMBERSHIP

CABINET MEMBERS

Councillor Paul Rowlinson (Finance)
Vacant Seat (Education)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Mr Dafydd Gibbard

HEAD OF FINANCE

Mr Dewi A Morgan

SECONDARY HEAD TEACHERS

Mr David Healey – Ysgol Friars
Mr Arwyn Williams – Ysgol Brynrefail
Mr Aled Williams – Ysgol Ardudwy
Mr Kyle Jones – Ysgol Yr Hendre

PRIMARY HEAD TEACHERS

Mr Gwion Owens – Ffederasiwn Cefn Coch a Thalsarnau
Mr Richard Derwyn Jones – Ysgol Chwilog
Ms Nia Puw – Ysgol Llanrug
Mr Alan Wynn Jones – Ysgol Cymerau
Mrs Eleri Morgan Davies – Ysgol y Gorlan
(Vacant Seat)

TEACHERS' UNIONS

Mr Clive Thomas – Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen

GOVERNORS

Arfon

Councillor Ioan Thomas – Ysgol y Gelli and Ysgol Sr Hugh Owen
(Vacant Seat)

Meirionnydd

Mrs Carys Meleri Fowles – Ysgol Penybryn and Ysgol Tywyn
Mr Eifion Roberts – Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn

Dwyfor

Councillor Gwilym Jones – Ysgol Borthygest
Councillor Gwynfor Owen – Ysgol Hafod Lon

DIOCESE

Robert Townend – Archdeacon of Meirionnydd

CHURCH SCHOOLS

Ms Joanna Thomas, Ysgol y Faenol

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Mrs Donna Roberts - Ysgol Hafod Lon

OBSERVERS

Mr Gwern ap Rhisiart, Head of Education
Ms Ffion Edwards Ellis, Assistant Head of Department : Special Educational Needs and Inclusion
Ms Debbie Anne Williams Jones, Assistant Head :of Department : Corporate Services
Ms Kathy Bell, Group Accountant - Schools

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

5 - 11

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 September 2024.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

To consider any matters arising from the minutes that do not appear on the Agenda.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM

To receive a verbal update.

7. SCHOOLS' BALANCES: FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

12 - 15

Kathy Bell (Schools' Group Accountant) to present the report.

8. EDUCATION BUDGET AND SCHOOLS' ALLOCATIONS

16 - 20

Kathy Bell (Schools' Group Accountant) to present the report.

9. UPDATE: CHANGES TO THE ALN FUNDING METHOD

21 - 23

Ffion Edwards Ellis (Assistant Head of Department: Special Educational Needs and Inclusion)

10. SCHOOLS' PROJECTIONS

24 - 26

Kathy Bell (Schools' Group Accountant) to present the report.

11. ANY OTHER MATTERS

To raise any related matters.

12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To confirm the date of the next meeting.

SCHOOLS' BUDGET FORUM 30.09.2024

Present:

Cabinet Members: Councillors Beca Brown (Education) and Paul Rowlinson (Finance)

School Headteachers:

Secondary: David Healey (Ysgol Friars)
Aled Williams (Ysgol Ardudwy)

Primary: Richard Derwyn Jones (Ysgol Chwilog) (Chair)
Gwion Owens (Cefn Coch and Talsarnau Federation)
Nia Puw (Ysgol Llanrug)
Alan Wynn Jones (Ysgol Cymerau)
Eleri Morgan Davies (Ysgol y Gorlan)

Governors: Councillor Ioan Thomas (Ysgol y Gelli and Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen)
Carys Meleri Fowles (Ysgol Penybryn and Ysgol Tywyn)
Councillor Gwilym Jones (Dwyfor – Ysgol Borth-y-gest)

Church Schools:

Special Schools:

Diocese:

Teachers' Unions: Clive Thomas (Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen)

Observers: Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education Department)
Debbie Anne Williams Jones (Assistant Head: Corporate Services)
Kathy Bell (Schools Group Accountant)
Ffion Edwards Ellis (Assistant Head: Special Education Needs and Inclusion)

Officers: Huw Ynyr (Assistant Head of Information Technology) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dewi Morgan (Head of Finance), Councillor Gwynfor Owen (Governor of Ysgol Hafod Lon) and Joanna Thomas (Ysgol y Faenol).

David Healey (Ysgol Friars), Gwion Owens (Cefn Coch and Talsarnau Federation) and Nia Puw (Ysgol Llanrug), new members of the Forum, were welcomed to their first meeting. Councillor Ioan Thomas (Ysgol y Gelli and Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen) was welcomed back to the Forum as the representative of Arfon Governors.

Deepest sympathies were expressed to Arwyn Williams (Ysgol Brynrefail) and his family following their recent bereavement.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

3. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous Forum meeting held on 1 July 2024 as a true record, and received an update as noted below.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Item 10: Secondary Schools' Funding Formula – Reviewing Catering and Cleaning:

It was confirmed that a sub-group had been established from among secondary school headteachers to discuss the formulas. It was noted that the sub-group had already met and would hold its second meeting soon.

Minutes of the meeting of the Schools' Budget Forum held on 17 July 2023:

It was noted that the minutes of this meeting highlighted Estyn recommendations and priorities following their visit to the authority. It was explained that these related to strategic planning, attendance and inclusion. It was confirmed that there were currently no specific financial implications for these three fields and planning was underway to realise the recommendations and priorities. Reference was made to the progress report on this work which would be submitted to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee in October, stating that anyone could watch the webcast if they wished to receive a further update on the work.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to elect Aled Williams (Headteacher of Ysgol Ardudwy) as Vice-chair of the Forum for 2024/25.

6. FORUM MEMBERSHIP

It was reported that officers had welcomed nominations from primary and secondary school headteachers following the last meeting. It was noted that one vacancy remained for a primary headteachers' representative and another vacancy for a representative from among secondary headteachers. It was explained that headteachers' Strategic Groups were being held shortly and it was hoped that there would be full representation on the Forum following that.

It was explained that there was one vacancy for representation from the Governors of the Arfon area. It was stated that the intention was for this vacancy to be filled by the next meeting.

It was also mentioned that there was a vacancy for Diocese representation. The intention to contact the Diocese to request a representative to the Forum was noted, and it was hoped that membership would have been confirmed by the next meeting.

7. SCHOOL BALANCES: 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR

The report was submitted by the Schools Group Accountant.

It was reported that individual schools' balance levels had been analysed for this Report. It was elaborated that the Authority's balances for schools had been noted up to 2017 so as to

compare the current situation with the situation prior to COVID-19. It was explained that schools' balances had increased during the pandemic period and that this could be seen nationally. However, it was emphasised that those monies saved during the pandemic were currently being used up very quickly. It was confirmed that the report only contained a snapshot of the balances as they were constantly changing. As a consequence, anyone assessing them should be very aware of their fluctuating nature before making decisions.

Three primary and three secondary schools were confirmed to be in financial deficit by the end of the 2023/24 financial year. It was explained that this was a small proportion of schools in deficit compared to other Authorities. It was emphasised that Finance and Education services were working with those schools to resolve debt and to plan so that the schools were in a better financial position in the future. It was noted that this could be developmental work to be realised over a few years.

It was considered how much of the balances had contributed to the development of a budget for 2024/25. An example was shared that most of the balances were earmarked as a large part of the following year's budget, resulting in a net low balance at the end of the financial year. In response, the Schools Group Accountant emphasised that the figures shown in the report were an update at the end of the financial year acknowledging that a large proportion of the funds were used for the establishment of new budgets on 1 April annually.

Secondary school balances were highlighted, and it was identified that different patterns could be found within the schools. It was noted that some schools' balances grew annually and others were using their balances more, resulting in relatively consistent figures on an annual basis. In response to the comments, the Schools Group Accountant confirmed that this stemmed from schools' individual plans and the needs that they had prioritised. It was also explained that an increase in staff numbers through temporary contracts during the pandemic had led to an increase in school staff across the county. It was elaborated that a large number of those contracts had now expired and in general there were fewer staff in schools. This was seen as having an impact on schools as fewer people were employed there but it helped them to stay within their budget.

A report on Ysgol y Moelwyn's balances was provided, noting that theirs had increased significantly in recent years. It was emphasised that there was no difference between this school and other schools in the county and it was not favoured in any way, except for local arrangements where the school was responsible for the public swimming pool. It was noted that officers would be in discussions with the school shortly to discuss their success with the balances so as to share good practice and strategies, if possible, with other schools in the County.

It was noted that in the past there was a requirement for schools with higher balances to spend these. However, it was thought prudent not to do so for schools with high balances at present as the information evidenced how quickly schools' situations could deteriorate. Instead, the emphasis should be on headteachers ensuring that the schools were scrupulously protected through the current period of financial uncertainty.

The need to look at these balances and compare them with the schools' pupil numbers was explained, to assess whether the largest schools had to make greater use of reserve balances to avoid debt, while the smaller schools could be run without using the balances.

It was assumed that schools' total balances would decline by the end of the current financial year to approach approximately £4million, returning to the position seen before the pandemic.

RESOLVED:

- **To accept the report, noting the observations made during the discussion.**
- **To receive a further update at the next meeting comparing school balances with pupil numbers. It was agreed to accept the total balances as a percentage of the schools' full budget as part of this report.**

8. SCHOOL GRANTS 2024/2025

The report was submitted by the Schools Group Accountant for information only.

It was explained that £96million was allocated to all schools annually. The Welsh Government grant allocation to Gwynedd schools for the 2024/25 financial year was £9.4million. It was elaborated that a Sixth Form Grant was received by the seven relevant secondary schools within the county, worth a total of £4.4million this year.

It was reported that grant funding financed staff pay, which had led to a challenge in recent years. It was explained that the grant amounts remained relatively similar from one year to the next but the rate of inflation of employing staff was increasing. It was confirmed that this led to a cut as the schools could do less with the money today than they could a few years ago.

It was confirmed that a new grant had been established for 2024/25 called the 'Standards Grant'. This Grant was recognised as replacing other previous grants such as the 'Education Improvement Grant – Foundation Phase and Other', 'Accelerating Learning (RRRS)' and '14-16 Learning Pathways'. It was emphasised that this change had resulted in a reduction of approximately £600,000 in the amount of grant money for Gwynedd.

It was noted that there was currently no suggestion of major changes to Welsh Government grants for 2025/26. It was confirmed that the Head of Education would update schools on any future changes to the grants if plans were brought forward by the Government to adapt them.

9. TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

A verbal update was delivered by the Assistant Head of Information Technology.

Members were provided with an update on developments to the schools' management information system (MIS / SIMS) and an update on the Council's Digital Plan (CC2 Project – Improvements to the telephone provision).

Schools' Management Information System

It was explained that the management information system was the software used in all schools and was provided by the ESS company. It was stated that the company was losing its monopoly within the market due to the software getting older and the company having delayed for too long in introducing a successor to it. It was elaborated that new companies were currently providing similar software on the market, highlighting the risk that the company could stop administrating the software altogether. It was confirmed that the Council's agreement with the company would expire on 31 March 2026. It was emphasised that there was a need to ensure that a plan was in place from 1 April 2026 to make certain that there was suitable software in all schools.

It was reported that a working group had been established, with representatives from among primary and secondary heads, business representation and authority representation. It was explained that they were looking at options for suitable software for the future, such as renewing the agreement with the current provider or looking at an alternative provider. It was explained that a Chair would need to be appointed to the working group from among its member headteachers. It was updated that the working group had looked at three different

systems so far and was giving them all detailed consideration. Gratitude was expressed in receiving legal and commercial support from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) on this issue.

The financial impact of this challenge was mentioned, emphasising that there would be an increase to revenue costs in 2026. It was elaborated that companies did not allow users to purchase the software for devices and instead, users leased the software on relevant platforms. It was confirmed that this was more costly to the Council than buying the software and installing it on its own infrastructure.

It was assumed that a new provider would need to be found unless the position of the ESS company changed. It was noted that this would be done according to the proper procedure by showing that different companies had had the opportunity to be providers to the Council and that there had been competition. It was elaborated that there would be migration costs on leaving ESS and that those would fall into the 2025/26 financial year. It was confirmed that the Assistant Head of Information Technology would submit a bid for funding to the Council to meet these costs when more detailed information came to light. It was also emphasised that consideration would be given to the costs and time for training school staff on changes to the software.

It was explained that the fee of introducing the software was consistent for all schools. It was elaborated that this presented a challenge in itself because the fee for introducing it to a school with fewer than 20 children was the same as the fee for introducing it to secondary schools. It was noted that this affected the financial element of the costs of finding a new provider.

It was anticipated that the costs of switching the software provider would result in approximately double the current cost and it was emphasised that the best decision in the interests of schools would be followed, and the decision would not be made on a purely financial basis.

The Council's Digital Plan

It was confirmed that the telephone provision was being changed. It was noted that all schools except for one primary school were currently on the corporate telephone system but it was emphasised that all schools would soon be on the same provision.

It was reported that the Council had formed an agreement with new providers and it was confirmed that the new system gave schools the opportunity to make more use of the available data if, for example, calls had been missed, availability to answer the phone and WhatsApp options, text messages, etc. It was acknowledged that all extension numbers would be modified and that significant work was ongoing to ensure this was done correctly. It was explained that the analogue systems were currently being changed and migrating to a new system would be easier as all schools would use the same provision.

It was stated that this transition was part of the Council's Digital Plan and was funded within that plan. It was assumed that phone costs would decrease by around 30% once this transition from analogue to digital was complete. It was clarified that fees would be allocated according to the number of extensions meaning that the service fees would vary from school to school. It was acknowledged that this difference would not be seen until the 2025/26 financial year, and it was confirmed that fees for this year would remain similar to previous years.

10. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS AND INCLUSION FUNDING 2025/25

The report was submitted by the Assistant Head: Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion.

It was explained that the report dealt with the funding of applications that reached the Moderation Panel for support for individual pupils.

The need to allocate the funding based on needs and formula rather than the Moderation Panel was identified, following the lead of a number of Local Authorities that had already taken this step. It was explained that this would lead to a fairer system because the same formula would be used for all schools. It was clarified that it was based on the use of existing data. It was felt that this change would provide greater security for schools resulting in secure jobs for assistants.

Work towards this change was confirmed to have started in 2019 following an external report which suggested the best way forward. It was acknowledged that there had been some delay in this work over the course of the pandemic, but that work was now underway to achieve this change as a priority.

This change was reported to be based on PLASC ALN data. Members were reminded that seven different models had been presented to this Forum in 2022 and that this had been the preferred one following that report. It was noted that work had proceeded to develop it and it was confirmed that this was the model currently being implemented in taking the transition forward.

In response to a query, it was acknowledged that no consideration had been given to the age of the children with ALN. It was noted that this was because it enabled schools to ensure that they made the best use of the budget for the benefit of the children while also ensuring that the formula to allocate funds did not become overly complicated.

It was stressed that the ALN budget had been frozen for 2024/25 due to tight deadlines and the need to release school budgets. It was emphasised that the exceptions to this were to provide individual support to any pupil who had come into the County during this year. It was confirmed that this had given officers the opportunity to look at the budget and the best way forward when considering the transition to a centralised system for all schools. It was elaborated that ALN numbers and intensity levels were assessed by using data inputted into the Individual Development Plan.

The scheme within the PLASC ALN was expanded upon, noting that it had been developed to look at the child's needs and did not take external support into account. It was also added that a budget worth 5% of the ALN budget had been earmarked for exceptions within the school year. It was explained that exceptions included a number of things such as a sudden deterioration in circumstances, or a child with ALN needs moving into the Gwynedd education area. It was also emphasised that the budget for supporting pupils with medical needs such as type 1 diabetes or epilepsy was removed from the budget before allocation. It was confirmed that any exception would be submitted to the Moderation Panel.

Earmarking a minimum budget for each school was considered, to ensure support was available although some schools did not have pupils with Authority IDPs at the start of the financial year. It was noted that this enabled the Council to provide provision to each school in accordance with pupil numbers and the numbers with ALN.

It was hoped to include ALN budget projections in December 2024 in preparation for the transition to the new model by March 2025.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None to note.

12. DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The intention was to hold the next meeting in early December. The Assistant Head: Corporate Services, Schools Group Accountant and Democracy Services Officer will discuss a suitable date for the next meeting as soon as possible.

RESOLVED to accept a report on how school budgets are allocated within the different sectors (primary, secondary and special schools) and other services as well as demographic details to identify challenges and share observations.

The meeting commenced at 3.45pm and concluded at 4.55pm.

MEETING	SCHOOLS' BUDGET FORUM
DATE	30 September 2024
TITLE	Schools' Balances Financial Year 2023/24
PURPOSE	Following request at last meeting
RECOMMENDATION	To accept the report
AUTHOR	Kathy Bell – Schools' Group Accountant

1 Schools' Balances

1.1 Appended are individual schools' balances as at 31/03/2024 including the value as a percentage of the final allocation for 2023/24 as requested at the last meeting. Here is a summary –

1.2

	Fianl Allocation 2023/24	Balances 31/03/2024	Balances 31/03/2024 as a % of Allocation
PRIMARY	£40,909,445	£4,980,580	12.17%
MIDDLE	£6,563,497	£811,962	12.37%
SECONDARY	£39,809,207	£2,161,056	5.43%
SPECIAL	£5,126,570	£588,473	11.48%
TOTAL	£92,408,719	£8,542,070	9.24%

1.3 The Welsh Government has now published the situation in Wales. Here's a link to the statement –

[Reserves held by schools: as at 31 March 2024 | GOV.WALES](#)

I would like to draw your attention particularly to the level of deficits in Welsh schools, which is £39.5million, with Gwynedd's schools accounting for £0.6miliwn of this.

There is a reduction of £94million in balances between March 2023 and March 2024, which reflects the pattern that we are seeing here in Gwynedd with projections of further reductions during this financial year.

1.4 Education and finance officers continue to work with schools to monitor the situation.

Schools' Balances 31 March 2024

	School No	School Name	Balances 31/03/2023	Final Allocation 2023/24	Balances 31/03/2024	Balances 31/03/2024 as a % of Allocation	
	1	2000	Gwaun Gynfi	£157,342	£662,504	£160,522	24.23%
	2	2004	Nefyn	£131,346	£593,388	£126,507	21.32%
	3	2006	Llanrug	£116,246	£984,809	£80,958	8.22%
	4	2008	Abererch	£67,416	£338,374	£54,023	15.97%
*	5	2010	Beddgelert	£32,051	£231,185	£17,051	7.38%
	6	2011	Bethel	£38,681	£619,864	£29,253	4.72%
	7	2013	Bodfeurig	£56,733	£285,298	£62,745	21.99%
*	8	2015	Borthygest	£11,644	£224,181	£322	0.14%
	9	2017	Brynaerau	£64,545	£302,690	£77,255	25.52%
	10	2026	Y Gelli	£170,208	£919,081	£127,506	13.87%
	11	2028	Penybryn	£90,424	£616,407	£22,942	3.72%
	12	2033	Trefferthyr	£70,052	£499,134	£48,883	9.79%
	13	2036	Chwilog	£22,598	£372,397	£18,204	4.89%
	14	2039	Crud Y Werin	£75,793	£320,680	£69,940	21.81%
	15	2042	Dolbadarn	£226,291	£641,372	£226,603	35.33%
	16	2046	Ederm	£81,547	£330,021	£75,005	22.73%
	17	2048	Bro Plennydd	£25,192	£418,947	£2,743	0.65%
*	18	2049	Garndolbenmaen	£23,628	£240,735	£48,122	19.99%
	19	2060	Llanbedrog	£90,995	£424,941	£84,479	19.88%
*	20	2066	Llangybi	£55,208	£198,044	£30,917	15.61%
	21	2069	Llanllechid	£178,240	£1,060,857	£84,156	7.93%
	22	2070	Llanllyfni	£59,233	£330,946	£71,463	21.59%
*	23	2075	Bab Morfa Nefyn	£91,946	£207,611	£73,151	35.23%
*	24	2078	Baladeulyn	£24,526	£226,133	£34,879	15.42%
*	25	2081	Nebo	-£10,999	£194,857	£4,734	2.43%
	26	2085	Penisarwaen	£53,117	£270,923	£57,403	21.19%
	27	2089	Bro Lleu	£73,216	£838,251	£34,125	4.07%
	28	2093	Pentreuchaf	£50,517	£440,958	£38,237	8.67%
*	29	2097	Rhiwlas	£44,746	£251,614	£57,501	22.85%
*	30	2098	Rhosgadfan	£3,909	£247,380	£1,623	0.66%
	31	2099	Rhostryfan	£73,931	£331,912	£31,468	9.48%
*	32	2103	Sarn Bach	£50,100	£252,661	£33,261	13.16%
	33	2104	Eifion Wyn	£40,582	£871,699	-£12,339	-1.42%
	34	2108	Talysarn	£103,821	£492,763	£126,789	25.73%
	35	2110	Y Gorlan	£144,062	£529,967	£111,981	21.13%
	36	2111	Yr Eifl	£53,412	£292,867	£61,619	21.04%
	37	2112	Tudweiliog	£36,769	£262,615	£28,551	10.87%
	38	2113	Waunfawr	£60,115	£569,359	£80,526	14.14%
	39	2116	Glancegin	£297,593	£1,013,114	£247,146	24.39%
	40	2119	Yr Hendre	£135,722	£1,764,961	£121,403	6.88%
	41	2122	Bontnewydd	£96,325	£926,905	£12,418	1.34%
	42	2123	Y Garnedd	£114,182	£1,557,577	£56,028	3.60%
	43	2125	Cymerau	£162,345	£1,221,907	£132,999	10.88%
	44	2126	Abercaseg	£151,896	£482,819	£117,102	24.25%

Schools' Balances 31 March 2024

	School No	School Name	Balances 31/03/2023	Final Allocation 2023/24	Balances 31/03/2024	Balances 31/03/2024 as a % of Allocation	
	45	2127	Y Felinheli	£132,633	£719,045	£68,406	9.51%
	46	2181	Traeth	£204,803	£774,156	£130,152	16.81%
*	47	2185	Corris	£48,800	£275,192	£55,100	20.02%
	48	2189	Dyffryn Ardudwy	£141,761	£383,230	£104,845	27.36%
*	49	2190	Bro Cynfal	£89,597	£207,429	£39,632	19.11%
*	50	2192	Edmwnd Prys	£72,440	£205,598	£27,991	13.61%
	51	2194	Llanbedr	£58,459	£265,830	£37,900	14.26%
*	52	2198	Y Garreg	£24,017	£203,781	£15,585	7.65%
	53	2199	O.M.Edwards	£77,067	£408,868	£81,570	19.95%
	54	2205	Manod	£163,075	£502,157	£154,643	30.80%
*	55	2207	Pennal	£18,905	£223,945	£32,293	14.42%
	56	2208	Cefn Coch	£116,852	£738,493	£85,524	11.58%
*	57	2210	Talsarnau	£84,441	£202,187	£36,901	18.25%
*	58	2211	Tanygrisiau	£29,321	£273,208	£10,975	4.02%
	59	2212	Penybryn	£171,203	£1,021,306	£153,139	14.99%
	60	2213	Bro Hedd Wyn	£46,861	£284,825	£18,919	6.64%
	61	2214	Frongoch	£28,842	£246,903	£28,111	11.39%
	62	2219	Tan y Castell	£66,772	£409,498	£57,168	13.96%
	63	2220	Ffridd y Llyn	£7,031	£394,192	£38,244	9.70%
	64	2221	Maenofferen	£163,522	£950,068	£115,323	12.14%
	65	2227	Hirael	£123,121	£855,972	£115,850	13.53%
	66	2228	Craig y Deryn	£21,249	£532,600	£20,119	3.78%
	67	2229	Bro Llifon	£165,627	£688,688	£171,770	24.94%
	68	3004	Pont y Gôf	£81,261	£410,280	£48,836	11.90%
	69	3005	Maesincla	£68,937	£1,297,191	£-25,616	-1.97%
	70	3009	Faenol	£183,633	£937,024	£123,164	13.14%
*	71	3010	Foelgron	£46,916	£221,072	£38,529	17.43%
	72	3013	Llandygai	£65,677	£565,617	£-12,672	-2.24%
*	73	3018	Llandwrog	£32,930	£205,438	£13,925	6.78%
*	74	3023	Llanystumdwy	£36,355	£206,599	£27,984	13.55%
	75	3029	Tregarth	£92,614	£476,999	£64,325	13.49%
	76	3030	Cae Top	£-9,308	£1,082,457	£26,601	2.46%
*	77	3300	Santes Helen	£62,690	£239,912	£27,834	11.60%
	78	3301	Our Lady	£120,223	£634,976	£77,304	12.17%
		CYNRADD	£6,535,572	£40,909,445	£4,980,580	12.17%	
* 21 ysgolion mewn gwarchodaeth lleiafswm staffio yn 2023/24							
*	1	3401	Bro Idris	£406,904	£3,513,968	£395,244	11.25%
	2	3402	Godre'r Berwyn	£413,949	£3,049,529	£416,718	13.67%
		DILYNOL	£820,853	£6,563,497	£811,962	12.37%	
* 1 ysgol mewn gwarchodaeth lleiafswm staffio yn 2023/24							

Schools' Balances 31 March 2024

	School No	School Name	Balances 31/03/2023	Final Allocation 2023/24	Balances 31/03/2024	Balances 31/03/2024 as a % of Allocation
1	4002	Dyffryn Ogwen	£277,628	£2,635,112	-£60,011	-2.28%
2	4003	Botwnnog	£454,173	£2,718,675	£241,110	8.87%
3	4004	Brynrefail	-£10,862	£4,394,691	-£260,346	-5.92%
4	4007	Dyffryn Nantlle	£164,943	£2,451,145	£61,435	2.51%
5	4009	Eifionydd	£263,013	£2,283,301	£157,495	6.90%
6	4031	Y Moelwyn	£671,222	£2,353,726	£806,636	34.27%
7	4032	Tywyn	£295,185	£2,275,737	£287,131	12.62%
8	4034	Ardudwy	£408,614	£2,028,253	£343,820	16.95%
9	4036	Friars	£701,567	£7,443,559	£413,146	5.55%
10	4037	Tryfan	£224,502	£2,997,018	£96,745	3.23%
11	4039	Syr Hugh Owen	£165,222	£5,346,366	-£244,330	-4.57%
12	4040	Glan Y Môr	£365,482	£2,881,622	£318,225	11.04%
UWCHRADD			£3,980,691	£39,809,207	£2,161,056	5.43%

1	3502	Pendalar	£237,513	£2,662,394	£250,266	9.40%
2	3503	Hafod Lon	£304,168	£2,464,175	£338,207	13.72%
ARBENNIG			£541,680	£5,126,570	£588,473	11.48%
CYFANSWM			£11,878,796	£92,408,719	£8,542,070	9.24%

MEETING	SCHOOLS' BUDGET FORUM
DATE	02 December 2024
TITLE	Education Budget and Schools' Allocations
PURPOSE	Following request at last meeting
RECOMMENDATION	To accept the report
AUTHOR	Kathy Bell – Schools' Group Accountant

Background

Following a request at the last meeting, here is a summary of the Education Department's financial situation, the value and formulae of school allocations for 2024/25.

- 1.1 The Education budget is £117,900million with £96,627million (82%) being devolved to schools. (appendix 1)
- 1.2 The explanation of the allocation (appendices 2 etc.) shows the data that is collected for each school, the basis of each line of the formula that is devolved as well as the value of each line e.g. Primary line 1 - Teachers £23.3million, Secondary line 1 - Teaching Staff £25.8million and in the Special sector line 1 - £4.5million.
- 1.3 Pupil numbers is the main driver in the formula and an increase or decrease in numbers can have a significant impact on individual school finances. Welsh Government grants are also driven by the number of beneficiaries. In a period where we are seeing a reduction in the number of pupils, this is a cause for concern moving forward.
- 1.4 Assuming there is no increase in resources, any review or change in formula always results in winners and losers.

Education Department Budget 2024/25

	£000	£000	
Devolved Schools			
Primary	£44,989		
Secondary	£45,921		
Special	<u>£5,719</u>	£96,629	82.0%
Schools Quality Services		-£1,514	-1.3%
Infrastructure and Support Services			
Transportation	£8,536		7.2%
Ancillary Services	£957		0.8%
Other	<u>£4,321</u>	£13,814	3.7%
Leadership and Management		£2,667	2.3%
Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion		£5,294	4.5%
Youth Service		£1,010	0.9%
TOTAL EDUCATION BUDGET		<u>£117,900</u>	100.0%

EXPLANATION OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS' ALLOCATION 2024/25

FACTORS USED IN THE FORMULA

BAND DENOTING LEARNING DIFFICULTY		WEIGHTED PUPIL	
1*	EXCEPTIONALLY SEVERE / MULTIPLE	PRIMARY	4.35
		SECONDAR	4.35
1	SEVERE / MULTIPLE	PRIMARY	3.48
		SECONDAR	3.48
2	SEVERE COMMUNICATION	PRIMARY	2.68
		SECONDAR	2.29
3	SEVERE EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL	PRIMARY	2.24
		SECONDAR	2.24
4	SEVERE DEVELOPMENT	PRIMARY	1.93
		SECONDAR	1.93
5	OTHERS	PRIMARY	1.49
		SECONDAR	1.24
NUBMER OF PUPIL PLACES		Total number of places in the school (un-weighted)	
WEIGHTED NUMBER OF PLACES		Total number of places weighted according to SEN bands	
NUMBER OF TEACHERS		Teachers employed	
FLOOR AREA (PROPERTY MAINTENANCE)		Floor area of school (m ²)	
CLEANED FLOOR AREA		Cleaned floor area (m ²)	
CLEANING FACTOR		1.3 - 1.5 reflecting cleaning difficulty	
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FACTOR		For the purpose of repairs and maintenance	
GROUNDS		Annual required hours assessment	
SWIMMING POOL 0 = school pool 1 = pool hire		If school does not have its own pool, money is allocated to take pupils to a public pool	
FREE SCHOOL MEALS		Number of pupils eligible for FSMs	
CALCULATION OF ALLOCATION FORMULA			
	TEACHING STAFF	Weighted Numbers x £6,705.93	£4,503,128
	SUPPLY STAFF	Weighted Numbers x £134.72	£90,466
	TEACHERS' WORKLOAD REDUCTION	£4,036.89 for each school + [(if notional no of teachers > 3) £4,036.89 + (notional no of teachers x £734.98)]	£36,433
	TEACHERS' WORKLOAD REDUCTION - September 2005 agreement	(Number of Notional Teachers less Headteacher) x [(£75.66 x 38 x 5/12) + (£54.27 x 38 x 7/12)]	£61,487
	SCHOOL NON-CONTACT TIME	£110.19 x 38 (i.e. ½ day supply teacher at average cost for 38 weeks)	£8,374
	KS3 GRANT - NON-CONTACT TIME / MANAGEMENT	Amount £2,351.96	£4,704
	MANAGEMENT OF TEACHERS' PERFORMANCE	Number of Notional Teachers x £193.74	£5,347
	ATHRAWON BRO	Pupil Numbers x £48.83 + £844.43	£13,072
	ANCILLARY STAFF	School Council £466.16 + (Weighted Pupil Numbers x £645.26)	£434,232
	CLERICAL STAFF	(Pupil Numbers x £106.55) + £3,762.81 + £800.33	£33,963
	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE - historic	Historic element of the new formula	£8,640
	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE - since 01.04.2000	(m ² x £2.26) x condition weighting + £3,673 less historic element	£12,574
	BUILDINGS - OTHER	Floor Area x £0.48	£2,945
	BUILDINGS - PROPERTY SERVICES	(m ² x £0.52) x condition weighting + £125	£3,441
	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Annual required hours assessment x £61.12	£19,985
	CLEANING	Cleaned Floor Area x Cleaning Factor x £14.65 + £5,410.00	£116,731
	ENERGY	Share of quantum based on historic expenditure	£162,250
	SWIMMING AND SPORTS	Pupil Numbers x £13.00	£3,030
	CAPITATION (including Health and Safety Inspections)	Pupil Numbers x £400.90 + £4,240.00 + (Pupil Number / 8 x £37.72)	£103,029
	FINANCIAL ADVICE	Pupil Numbers x £7.17 + £416	£2,503
	BANKING	Pupil Numbers x £1.80 + £234.00	£888
	PAYROLL	(Pupil Numbers x £4.95) + £25.50	£1,205
	PERSONNEL	(Pupil Numbers x £6.07) + £25.50	£1,466
	CATERING SERVICES	(Nifer cinio am ddim x £565.47) + (Nifer lleyfydd llai nifer cinio am ddim x £86.68) + £4,120.00	£74,888
	CYNNAL - TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	Pupil Numbers x £14.07 + £80.00	£3,440
	SCHOOLS' NETWORKING SERVICES	Percentage of the actual provision cost	£1,680
	GRANT TRANSFERRED TO SETTLEMENT	Sum per school £4,519.40	£9,039
	ALLOCATION 2024/25	total allocation	£5,718,940

PRIMARY AGE FORMULA 2024/25

1	Number of Nursery Pupils September 2023			
2	Weighted No Nursery Pupils x 0.44 (M)	actual nursery numbers x 0.44 to reflect part-time pupils		
3	No of Infants September 2023 (B)			
4	No of Juniors September 2023 (I)			
5	Total Weighted Pupil Numbers (M)+(B)+(I) = (N)			
6	Average Class Size (N / A)			
7	No of Teachers	No. of Teachers (0.4347 + (N x 0.0388)) x 0.883522		
8	No of Teachers minimum teaching staff	minimum teaching staff 2 or 1.5 for schools <15 full-time pupils		
9	Total No of Teachers - contact (A)			
10	No of Teachers 10% PPA a 10% Management	10% classroom teachers (A) for PPA + 10% classroom teachers (A) for Management		
11	Teaching Staff Average Salary - before turnover 1.5%	average salary for the school less turnover and overheads		
12	SEN indicator	pupils on SEN stages : School IDP, Forum IDP, Authority IDP (weighting 1:3:3)		
13	No of Eligible Free School Meals	number of pupils eligible to receive free school meals		
14	Building Area (m ²)			
15	Cleaning Area (m ²)			
16	Building Condition Weighting	A = 1.0 B = 1.2 C = 1.4		
17	Building ownership	1 = LEA 0 = not LEA		
18	Cleaning Weighting	0.68 to 1.36 to reflect cleaning difficulty		
19	Caretaker	1 = caretaker 0 = no caretaker		
20	Grounds Maintenance Weighting	assessment of annual hours requirement		
21	Distance from Leisure Centre Weighting	1 = less than 1 mile 2 = less than 12 miles 3 = over 12 miles		
22	Staffing	Teachers	number of teachers x (average salary x less turnover 1.5% x overheads 1.352 + supply £2,097)	£23,310,283
23		Teachers - minimum teaching staff	number of teachers - minimum teaching staf x (average salary x less turnover 1.5% x overheads 1.352 + supply £2,097)	£1,115,613
24		Teachers 10% PPA a 10% Management	no. of teachers 20% x (£43,333 x overheads 1.352 + supply £2,097)	£4,143,762
25		SEN	(SEN indicator x £247.54) less any minimum teaching staff protection	£453,008
26		Deprivation	(number of free school meals x £292) less any minimum teaching staff protection + for each school (free school meals x £67.37)	£570,812
27		Support Staff : Clerical	lump sum £691.00 + (weighted pupil numbers x £105.98)	£967,556
28		Support Staff : Supervision	total number of full-time pupils x £83.66	£679,570
29		Integration - Statements	based on average cost of teaching and classroom assistants hours	£4,365,273
30	Buildings	School Maintenance : School	historic percentage of the new formula	£185,522
31		School Maintenance : Property Unit	lump sum £720.00 + (m2 x £5.20 x weighted condition) - less historic element	£362,185
32		Buildings : Other	building area x £1.02	£79,299
33		Buildings : Property Services	lump sum £539.00 + (m2 x £1.23 x weighted condition)	£158,916
34		Energy	distribution of 2024/25 budget based on 3 year average	£1,532,650
35		Rates	base on rateable value : actual NNDR 2024/25	£720,490
36		Cleaning	[lump sum £2,370 + (cleaning area x £18.32)] x cleaning weighting + (for schools without caretaker) weighted pupil numbers x £86.46 x cleaning weighting	£1,708,145
37		Caretaking	caretaker = 1 x (weighted pupil numbers x £39.00)	£146,913
38		Grounds Maintenance	annual hours assessment x £61.17	£274,573
39	Resources	Teaching Resources	lump sum £934.00 + (weighted pupil numbers x £72.75) + (number of free school meals x £16.90)	£731,859
40	Other	Swimming Pools and Sports	distance category 1 = £0 or 2 = £338.00 or 3 = £1,000.00 + (total number of full-time pupils x £7.83)	£110,827
41		Music Service	number of KS2 pupils x £36.90	£177,563
42		School Support	lump sum £1,505.00 + (total number of full-time pupils x £37.31)	£429,489
43		Financial Advice	lump sum £390.00 + (total number of full-time pupils x £3.37)	£60,135
44		Banking Management Service	lump sum £121.00 + (total number of full-time pupils x £1.27)	£20,480
45		Payroll	lump sum £97.00 + (total number of full-time pupils x £9.48)	£85,154
46		Personel	lump sum £126.00 + (total number of full-time pupils x £12.32)	£110,659
47		Technology Support	lump sum £98.00 + (total number of full-time pupils x £8.11)	£74,110
48		Schools' Networking Services	percentage of the actual provision cost	£83,590
49		Catering	lump sum £8,052.00 + (free school meals x £646.50) + (total number of full-time pupils - number of free school meals x £205.84) + (total number of full-time pupils - number of free school meals x -£30.40)	£2,910,410
50	ALLOCATION SUB TOTAL 2024/25		sub total allocation	£45,568,845
51	Revised Minimum Teaching Staff Safeguarding Policy		apply balances over 5% to reduce minimum teaching staff safeguarding	-£579,690
52	PRIMARY ALLOCATION 2024/25		total allocation	£44,989,155

EXPLANATION OF SECONDARY AGE ALLOCATION 2024/25

FACTORS USED IN THE FORMULA

1	LANGUAGE MODEL CATEGORY	CH = 0.01, A = 0.03, Ci = 0.04, Cii = 0.04, Bi = 0.06, Bii = 0.06
2	LANGUAGE MODEL WEIGHTING	
3	FLOOR AREA (m ²)	
4	CLEANED FLOOR AREA (m ²)	
5	CLEANING WEIGHTING	5 - 7 indicating cleaning difficulty
6	GROUND MAINTENANCE	Annual required hours assessment
7	ENERGY WEIGHTING	8 - 15 indicating energy efficiency
8	BUILDINGS CONDITION WEIGHTING	A = 1.0 B = 1.2 C = 1.4
9	PUPIL NUMBERS	
10	PUPIL NUMBERS KS 3 SEPTEMBER 2023	Years 7 + 8 + 9 = a
11	PUPIL NUMBERS KS 4 SEPTEMBER 2023	Years 10 + 11 = b
12	TOTAL PUPIL NUMBERS	a + b
13	WEIGHTED PUPIL NUMBERS	[a x 1.316 + b x 1.629] + [(900 - a - b) x 0.14] + [(a + b) x language model]
14	SCHOOL AGE GROUP	1 = school with 6th form 0 = school without 6th form
15	SEN WEIGHTING	SEN Pupils on School IDP, Forum IDP, Authority IDP (weighted 1:3:3)
16	NUMBER OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS	Number of pupils eligible for free school meals
17	NOTIONAL NO. OF TEACHERS KS3 & KS4	(Teaching Staff + SEN Allocation) / Sector Average Salary £70,875
18	NOTIONAL NO. OF TEACHERS KS3 & KS4 - SAFEGUARD	Teaching Staff Safeguard / Sector Average Salary £70,875
19	TOTAL NOTIONAL NO. OF TEACHERS KS3 & KS4	Total Notional Number of KS3 & KS4 Teachers

CALCULATION OF ALLOCATION FORMULA

20	TEACHING STAFF	Weighted pupil numbers x £70,875 (Average Salary) / 29.67 PTR	£25,848,769
21	TEACHING STAFF - SAFEGUARD	Safeguard if less than 18.17 fte teaching staff in KS3 & KS4	£218,316
22	TEACHING STAFF - SEN	(SEN weighted numbers x £375.33) + (Number of Free School Meals x £412.59)	£1,163,513
23	INTEGRATION - STATEMENTS	based on Statement hours	£2,531,016
24	TEACHERS' WORKLOAD REDUCTION	Notional number of teachers x £1063.05 + £8,690	£526,816
25	TEACHERS' WORKLOAD REDUCTION - September 2005 agreement	Notional number of teachers x £1,694.87 + £580.00 + £350.00 + £1,148 for schools with 6th form	£667,014
26	MANAGEMENT OF TEACHERS' PERFORMANCE	£215.20 x notional number of teachers	£82,018
27	ANCILLARY STAFF	School Council £338.55 + (Pupil Numbers (a + b) x 1.62 x £142.51) + £27,620	£1,949,074
28	INCLUSION	((SEN Weighting x £181.62) + (Number of Free School Meals x £199.65) + (KS3 Pupil Numbers x £68.61) + (KS4 Pupil Numbers x £106.47))	£1,126,048
29	ENERGY	(Pupil Numbers (a + b) x Energy Weighting x £6.27) + £33,786	£1,577,873
30	RATES	Based on Rateable Value (i.e. Actual Costs 2024/25)	£881,420
31	BUILDINGS - REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	Historic element of the new formula	£176,475
32	BUILDINGS - REPAIR & MAINTENANCE since 01/04/2000	[(m ² x £4.78) x condition weighting] + £898 less historic element	£346,736
33	BUILDINGS - OTHER	m ² x £0.66	£57,114
34	BUILDINGS - PROPERTY SERVICES	[(m ² x £0.59) x condition weighting] + £468	£69,581
35	CLEANING	(Cleaned Floor Area x Cleaning Weighting x £2.57) + £3,548.00	£1,184,505
36	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Annual required hours assessment x £61.14	£205,179
37	SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	[(a + b) x 3.75] x £42.96 + £3,770.00 + (Number of free school meals x £9.77) + (Pupil Numbers (a + b) / 6 x £10.93)	£1,165,788
38	SWIMMING & SPORTS	Pupil Numbers (a + b) x £7.26	£48,983
39	MUSIC SERVICES (INSTRUMENTAL)	Pupil Numbers (a + b) x £29.18	£196,877
40	FINANCIAL ADVICE	(Pupil Numbers (a + b) x £0.40) + £365.00	£7,809
41	BANKING, INVESTMENTS etc	(Pupil Numbers (a + b) x £0.88) + £336.00	£10,641
42	PAYROLL	(Pupil Numbers (a + b) x £6.13) + £234.00	£44,635
43	PERSONNEL	(Pupil Numbers (a + b) x £7.95) + £290.00	£57,699
44	TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	(Pupil Numbers (a + b) x £8.35) + £2,647.00	£93,395
45	SYSTEMS SUPPORT	(Pupil Numbers (a + b) x £13.20) + £6,834.00	£184,736
46	DISTANCE LEARNING	Pupil Numbers (a + b) x £5.99	£40,415
47	SCHOOLS' NETWORKING SERVICES	Percentage of the actual provision costs	£29,810
48	CATERING SERVICES	(Numbers eligible to receive free school meals x £696.43) + £9,700.00 (pupil nos less FSM x -£12.49)	£1,051,107
49	ENERGY & OTHER GRANT TRANSFERRED	(Weighted pupil nos x £16.65) + £4,290.00	£240,228
50	ALLOCATION 2024/25	total KS3 & KS4 allocation	£41,783,590
51	Post 16 Grant	Welsh Government Grant	£4,388,725
52	SUB TOTAL 2024/25	total KS3 and KS4 allocation + Post 16 Grant	£46,172,315
53	Revised Minimum Teaching Staff Safeguarding Policy	apply balances over 5% to reduce minimum teaching staff safeguarding	£231,470
54	ALLOCATION 2024/25	total allocation	£45,920,845



Cyfarfod/Meeting	Fforwm Cyllid Ysgolion/ School's Finance Forum
Dyddiad/Date	2il o Ragfyr 2024/ 2nd of December 2024
Swyddog/Officer	Ffion E Ellis
Teitl yr Eitem/ Title	Diweddariad: Newidiadau Dull Cyllido ADY / Update: Changes to the ALN funding Method

Atgoffa o'r achos i newid i Fformiwla / A reminder of the reasoning behind the change:

Gobeithion/ Hopes

- System sydd yn deg ar draws Ysgolion priflif
- *A system that is fair across all mainstream schools*
- Defnyddio data sydd ar gael yn barod
- *Using data that is already available*
- System sydd yn rhoi mwy o sicrwydd
- *Providing greater stability in the funding*
- Gallu cynnal a hyfforddi staff sefydlog
- *Supporting staff retention and training*
- Gwneud y gorau o'r adnoddau sydd ar gael
- *Making best use of the resources available*
- Cynnydd neu leihad yn y gyllideb yn effeithio ysgolion yn deg
- *Increase and decrease in the funding impacting School equally*



Cyfleoedd yn sgil y newid/ *Opportunities through change:*

- Symleiddio mynediad i wasanaethau ADY a Ch/ *Simplifying processes to access services*
- Bydd cyfle i leihau biwrocratiaeth a chamau di- angen yn ein prosesau / *Reducing bureaucracy due to the current system*

Cyfnod Trosglwyddo Graddol / *Gradual Transition*

Er mwyn trosglwyddo yn raddol, a lleihau effaith cynnydd neu leihad sylweddol, bydd rhwyd o 50% yn cael ei osod yn y flwyddyn gyntaf. Hynny yw, ni fydd unrhyw ysgol yn cynyddu na gostwng mwy na 50% o'r gyllideb bresennol.

In order to ease the transition into the new model, and ease large variation in funding, we have included a 'net' of 50% so that no School sees a reduction or increase in the funding of greater than 50% within the first year.



Paratoi at Mawrth '25 / Preparing for March '25

Beth? What?	Pryd? When?	Pwy? Who?
Modelu ar ddata Hydref 2024 a gwirio pellach ar y data o fewn y CDU lle bo angen <i>Modeling using October 2024 data, and further correction within the IDP</i>	Hydref/Tachwedd 2024 <i>Oct/Nov 2024</i>	Swyddogion Cyllid/Data Swyddogion Ansawdd ADY Finance Officers /ALN Quality Officers/ Data Officers
Gwiriad Pellach o'r wybodaeth <i>Further Correction of the Data</i>	Tachwedd 2024 <i>November 2024</i>	Swyddogion Ansawdd ADY/Cyllid/ysgolion <i>ALN Quality Officers/Finance Officers and Schools</i>
Modelu pellach yn defnyddio data terfynol o fewn y CDU ar gyfer rhyddhau yn y rhagolygon <i>Further Modeling of final data within the IDP in order to include in Forecasts</i>	Tachwedd 2024 Nov 2024	Swyddogion Cyllid/Data Finance Officers/data Officers
Rhyddhau Rhagolygon yn cynnwys ADY <i>Forecasts released, including ALN</i>	Tachwedd 2024 <i>Nov 2024</i>	Swyddogion Cyllid <i>Finance Officers</i>
Cwblhau dogfennaeth gefnogol ar gyfer Mawrth 2025 ymlaen <i>Supporting Documents to support schools following March 2025</i>	Rhagfyr 2024 Dec 2024	Tim Rheoli ADY ALN Management Team
Sesiynau Teams galw i mewn ar gyfer Ysgolion <i>Drop in Support Sessions for Schools</i>	Ionawr '25 <i>Jan 2025</i>	Tim Rheoli ADY/Swyddogion Ansawdd <i>ALN Management team and Quality Officers</i>

MEETING	SCHOOLS' BUDGET FORUM
DATE	02 December 2024
TITLE	Schools' Projections
PURPOSE	Presented for information and to raise awareness
RECOMMENDATION	To accept the report
AUTHOR	Kathy Bell – Schools' Group Accountant

A 3 year financial forecast was provided to schools on 21 November 2024 based on the September 2024 pupil count -

1. **Primary** numbers have decreased by 182 pupils between September 2023 and September 2024 and lead to a reduction of £338 thousand in the funding that will be devolved in 2025/26. The schools themselves anticipate a further reduction of 144 pupils by 2025 and 134 by 2026. Therefore a reduction in primary numbers of 460 pupils worth approximately £1.2million over the period.
2. In the **secondary** sector the basis of funding is divided –
 KS3 and KS4 is funded by Gwynedd Council. A reduction of 75 pupils between 2023 and 2024 leads to a reduction in funding of £248 thousand in 2025/26. The schools anticipate an increase over the following two years, but we want to give the schools a further opportunity to review their forecasts considering what we are seeing in the primary with decreasing numbers. We will work with the schools to improve the basis of the forecasts and provide more reliable information in terms of planning ahead.

6th class is funded by the new body MEDR. A reduction of 23 pupils between 2023 and 2024 leads to a reduction in funding of £92 thousand in 2025/26. The schools anticipate an increase over the following two years, but as with KS3 and KS4 numbers we will revisit this.

The secondary schools face a financial reduction of £248 thousand and £92 thousand, a total of £340 thousand by 2025/26.

3. In **middle** schools' sector numbers are a combination of primary and secondary effects, with 32 fewer lifelong pupils between 2023 and 2024 leading to a reduction of £56 thousand in funding. We will revisit secondary age projections with the middle schools for the same reason as stated above.
4. We do not see an increase in the number of **special** pupils, as both schools are almost 'full' and there is not much additional capacity. Work is ongoing to review the severity of needs of pupils and this may lead to an increase or decrease in funding for 2025/26.

5. A summary of the impact of numbers on school allocations and grants for 2025/26 is attached (**appendix 1**) which shows a reduction of £1.177million including all information currently available to us –
 - Primary £848mil
 - Middle £144mil
 - Secondary £176mil
 - Special £10mil
6. When planning for 2025/26 and onwards, it must be considered that schools have used £3.784million to set budgets this year and this will also be a significant challenge to face if no staff/resource cuts have occurred in 2024/25. Besides a school anticipating an increase in pupil numbers to create more future funding, using balances only has the effect of postponing cuts. The use of balances is a one-off solution.
7. Neither the Council's settlement nor school grants for 2025/26 have been confirmed to date. There is no guarantee that all grants will continue or increase/decrease for the next year. The Welsh Government declares their budget on 10 December and the settlement to local councils will follow.

As a result of messages about the Council's financial situation it is inevitable that schools will face a cut in 2025/26. There is **NO** decision about the level of cuts at present.

Recommendation
To accept the information

Summary of PROJECTED Revenue Funding for 2025/26

	demograph £000	ALN - IDP data 04/11/2024 £000	mitigate in the first year £000	Projected Allocation 2025/26 £000	projected PDG under 5years £000	projected PDG 5-15years £000	projected Standars Grant £000	projected 6th form Grant £000	Projected Grants 2025/26 £000	Projected Effect on Revenue Funding 2025/26 £000	balansces 31/03/2024 £000	applied to set budgets for 2024/25 £000	projected balances 31/03/2025 £000
PRIMARY	-£338	-£409	£205	-£543	-£84	-£115	-£106		-£305	-£848	£4,981	-£2,146	£2,835
MIDDLE	-£56	-£88	£44	-£100	£6	-£22	-£14	-£14	-£44	-£144	£812	-£258	£554
SECONDARY	-£248	£472	-£236	-£12		-£70	-£2	-£92	-£164	-£176	£2,161	-£1,175	£986
SPECIAL					-£6	-£2	-£2		-£10	-£10	£588	-£205	£383
TOTAL	-£642	-£25	£12	-£655	-£84	-£209	-£124	-£106	-£522	-£1,177	£8,542	-£3,784	£4,758