

SUBJECT: Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding including Schools Funding Formula 2024/2025

LEAD OFFICER: Andrew Good, Interim Schools Financial Accountant, Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Forum:

- a) Notes the total Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for 2024/25.
- b) Approves the 'growth' fund allocation of £532k for 2024/25 (related to the closure of Stanford Academy only).
- c) Approves the transfer of £781k (0.5%) from the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block for 2024/25.
- d) Approves the dis-application request £500k from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2024/25 – subject to approval by Secretary of State.
- e) Approves the de-delegation of budgets for 2024/25.
- f) Schools' Forum approves the contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools of £650k (previously funded by ESG).
- g) Approves the APT 2024/25 in accordance with the consultation exercise held during November 2023 of school budgets 2024/25 and to note that this is subject to ESFA data validation and checking and may be subject to minor change(s). Final approved APT and any changes will be reported to School Forum in March.
- h) Approves the Central Services School Block budgets for 2024/25.
- i) Notes the comments on the High Needs Block budgets for 2024/25.
- j) Notes the comments on the ongoing Safety Valve Programme.

1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report details how Merton proposes to allocate DSG funding in 2024/2025, in light of the responses by schools to consultation in November 2023 (please see appendix 3). This consultation only relates to the School Block funding.
- 1.2 The budgets presented have been produced after due consideration of the feedback from the consultation with schools in November and within the overall funding available to Merton.
- 1.3 The final allocations to schools reported here reflect a lower amount than those reported in November. The November figures were estimates, and the allocations now reflect the High Needs Block transfers and increased delegations. The DSG has been balanced by making the key assumptions listed below:
- Primary AWPUs set as high as possible.
 - Secondary AWPUs slight increase from last year but at the lower end of the permissible range.
 - All other factors are set at the minimum level.
 - No growth/falling rolls fund is available however a separate 'growth' fund of £532k has been designated specifically to mitigate the impact of the closure of Stanford Academy in September 2024.
 - MFG has been set at 0.14% rather than the 0.5% consulted on.

This approach has been taken in line with the majority preference for Option B from the consultation, with some amendments necessary in light of the actual Schools Block allocation from the DfE. This approach was taken to support primary schools, where falling rolls are impacting at the moment. Schools with deficits resulting from falling pupil numbers will be eligible for limited support from the Schools in Challenging Circumstances Fund.

- 1.4 The Government announced the DSG allocation on 19th December 2023, and Merton's allocation is split over the four blocks as Table 1 below. These allocations are as published by the DfE:

Table 1 - Merton DSG Block Allocations	2023/24	2024/25 Published Allocations	Movement Favourable / (Unfavourable)	% change
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	
Schools block	149,708	156,218	6,510	4.35%
Central Schools Services block	1,141	1,147	6	0.51%
High Needs block	49,169	50,209	1,040	2.12%
Early Years block	15,921	24,169	8,248	51.8%
Total DSG	£215,938	£231,742	£15,804	7.32%
<i>Recoupment *</i>	-36,673	-37,552	-879	2.40%
DSG received	£179,266	£194,190	£14,964	8.35%
<i>Numbers of pupils in census</i>	24,266	24,057	-209	-1%
* Recoupment calculated as part of school formula for academies 2024/25 (estimated). The £6.5m increase includes £5.166m rolled in MSAG.				

The DSG allocation for 2024/25 includes the allocation of the Mainstream School Additional Grant (MSAG) funding that was paid separately during

2023/24. MSAG allocations in 2023/24 were £5,166m for schools and academies. This now forms part of the DSG Schools' block.

- 1.5 The option for National and Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) payments to be administered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) was available for 2024/25, but Merton is continuing with the lagged payment process for 2024/25.
- 1.6 This report provides details of how the four blocks of the DSG are budgeted to be used in 2024/25.

Recommendation (a)

Schools' Forum notes the DSG allocations for 2024/25 published on the 19th December 2023 and notes the actual amounts will be subject to change(s) during the financial year because of recoupment from High Needs Block and inter authority place changes (including as a result of Merton being a net exporter of children).

2. Schools Block

- 2.1 The Schools Block allocation of £156.218m is split into the following expenditure types within the school formula as table 2 below:

TABLE 2 - Schools Block	2024/25	2023/24	%
Description	£'000	£'000	Increase
Growth/Falling Rolls Fund	532	300	77%
<i>* Transfers to the High Needs Block (0.5%)</i>	<i>*781</i>	<i>*748</i>	<i>4%</i>
<i>* Secretary of State approval (cash transfer £500k to High Needs block)</i>	<i>* 500</i>	<i>* 500</i>	<i>0%</i>
De-delegated items (maintained schools)	2,313	2,233	14%
Central duties to maintained schools (ESG)	629	629	0%
National & Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR)	2,957	2,917	0.4%
Individual School Budgets	148,506	142,381	4%
Total Schools Block	156,218	149,708	7%

Growth/Falling Rolls Fund

- 2.2 The proposed 'growth' fund is £532k, an increase on the £300k consulted on with schools in December 2023. However, this relates entirely to the closure of Stanford Academy in August 2024, and reflects the Academy's 7/12 budget (September 24 – March 25), after it has closed. It will be used to support children leaving Stanford to attend other Merton schools.
- 2.3 There is no separate growth/falling rolls fund this year as outlined in the summary. Schools with deficits will be eligible for consideration for the Schools in Challenging Circumstances Fund.

Decision (b)

Schools' Forum approves the 'growth' fund allocation of £532k for 2024/25.

Block Transfers

- 2.4 For 2024/25 Merton will propose to transfer £781k from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block (£748k in 2023/24). This represents 0.5% of the Schools Block allocation and will be used to fund the growing cost pressure of increased pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities in mainstream schools with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Decision (c)

Schools' Forum approves the transfer of £781k (0.5%) from the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block for 2024/25, following the consultation with schools, where 100% of respondents approved this transfer from the estimated schools block to the High Needs Block.

- 2.5 As reported to Schools' Forum on 15th November 2023, and in support of the DfE Safety Valve plan to address the recovery of the cumulative DSG deficit of £25m, it was proposed to top slice £500k from the Schools' Block to the High Needs Block in support of continued SEN pressures. The disapplication request submitted to the Secretary of State (SOS) on 17th November remains subject to approval.

Decision (d)

Schools' Forum approves the dis-application request £500k from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2024/25.

De-delegation

- 2.6 The total de-delegated budget for 2024/25 is £2,313m . All de-delegated budgets have been set based on the categories discussed at Schools' Forum on the 15th November 2023. Table 3 details the total allocation for de-delegated services, as well as the unit cost for each of these services for 2024/25. Each phase and line by line must be agreed by maintained schools' representatives on Schools' Forum, (not academies).

Table 3- De-delegated budgets	Budget	2024/25 Unit Cost	Budget	2023/24 Unit Cost		Sector
	2024/25		2023/24			
Service	£'000		£'000		Measure	
Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) Subscriptions	£144	£7.65	£124	£6.48	NOR	Primary
Recharged via DfE						Secondary
Schools catering equipment pooled budget insurance	£40	£2.99	£40	£2.94	NOR	Primary
		n/a		n/a		Secondary
Support & Challenge Programme	£400	£21.26	£400	£21.02	NOR	Primary
						Secondary
Attain	£100	£5.31	£100	£5.26	NOR	Primary
						Secondary
Parenting cover and public duties including Trade Unions duties	£770	£40.92	£770	£40.46	NOR	Primary
						Secondary
Ethnic minorities & bilingual learners	£70	£14.65	£70	£15.12	Low Attainment	Primary
						Secondary
Tree maintenance pooled budget	£65	£3.45	£65	£3.42	NOR	Primary
						Secondary
Behaviour Support	£207	£46.69	£207	£44.72	Low Attainment	Primary
						Secondary
VBS - Behaviour Service	£80	£13.42	new 2024/25		Low Attainment	Primary
New (24/25) option B from consultation						Secondary
School Improvement	£149	£7.92	£149	£7.83	NOR	Primary
						Secondary
School Attendance	£183	£9.73	£183	£9.62	NOR	Primary
						Secondary
School Improvement and Brokering	£105	£5.58	£105	£5.52	NOR	Primary
						Secondary
Total budget	£2,313		£2.213			

(NOR= Number on Roll, Low Attainment = Lower Attainment factor for low cost, high incidence SEN)

Decision (e) (Maintained schools only)

Schools' Forum (maintained schools only) approves the de-delegation of budgets for 2024/25.

Local Authority statutory duties previously funded by the Education Service Grant (ESG)

- 2.7 In order to maintain the Local Authority's statutory central duties to Merton maintained schools (the services previously funded by the Education Service Grant (ESG), schools are required to make a contribution towards these

services based on numbers on roll through the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) factor (funded autumn numbers on roll for special schools).

- 2.8 For 2024/25, £629k is contributed from the Schools Block, while £21k comes from the High Needs Block for special schools (2023/24 budget split was £629k from the Schools' Block and £21k from the High Needs Block). As detailed in the school's consultation document, schools are funding 32% of the costs while the Local Authority funds 68%. We have maintained the local authority funding of these services to minimise the impact on school budgets.

Decision (f)

Schools' Forum approves the contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for maintained schools of £650k (previously funded by ESG).

Individual Schools Budget share

- 2.9 The Individual Schools Budget (ISB) share (the total amount available to be paid to schools, academies, and free schools for 2024/25 as part of the Schools Block), is £148.506m. representing a 4% change in funding to schools. This change includes MSAG (which was previously separate from the main allocations).
- 2.10 Individual School Budget shares for 2024/25 can be found in Appendix 1. The funding formula rates are attached in Appendix 2.

3 School Funding Formula Factors

- 3.1 Following consultation with schools and the analysis of the consultation responses (attached as appendix 3), 67% of respondents were in favour of the Model B presented which maximised the Primary AWPU. The final attached allocations have been produced using the following approach:
- Primary AWPU set as high as possible.
 - Secondary AWPU slight increase from last year but at the lower end of the permissible range.
 - all other factors are set at the minimum level.
 - no growth/falling rolls fund is available however a separate growth fund of £532k has been designated specifically for the impact of Stanford Academy which is closing mid-year.
 - MFG has been set at 0.14% rather than the 0.5% consulted on.
- 3.2 A summary of the NFF factors used can be found at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The area cost adjustment (ACA) is also applied to uplift funding in line with local labour market costs. The minimum per pupil funding and the funding floor are applied to ensure that all schools attract at least the minimum level of per pupil funding through the formula and that all schools attract at least a 0.5% increase compared to their 2023-24 baseline pupil-led funding per pupil. Due to the government's recent publication of a review of split site funding for schools, the allocation will now be part of the NFF formula and published rates. This applies to one school within Merton within the APT formula for 2024/25.
- 3.4 The primary to secondary funding ratio is 1:1:32 in comparison of 1:1:34 for 2023/24.

- 3.5 These figures exclude the 6th Form funding which still needs to be provided by the ESFA and does not form part of the schools funding formula. It also excludes additional resource provision and individual pupil statement funding which forms part of the high needs block.
- 3.6 Pupil Premium funding is not included in these figures and the 2024/25 allocations will be provided separately when maintained schools are informed of their budgets on or before 28th February 2024.

Mainstream Schools Supplementary Grant Funding

- 3.7 This has now been rolled into the DSG funding baseline for 2024/25 and no additional allocations will be made for 2024/25.

Decision (g)

School Forum approves the APT 2024/25 in accordance with the Consultation exercise held during November 2023 of school budgets 2024/25 and to note that this is subject to ESFA data validation and checking and may be subject to minor change(s). Final approved APT and any changes will be reported to School Forum in March.

4 Central Schools Services Block

- 4.1 The Central School Services Block (CSSB) was introduced in 2018/19 to fund local authorities for the statutory duties that they hold for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:
- Residual funding for historic commitments, previously top-sliced from the Schools Block and now subject to saving/reduction each year.
 - Funding for ongoing central functions, such as admissions, previously top-sliced from the Schools Block.
 - Funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG).
 - Table 4 below details 2023/24 budget allocation in comparison to 2024/25.

Table 4 - Central School Services Block (CSSB)				
Budget year	CSSB unit of funding (£s) per pupil rate	CSSB pupil count	Funding for historic commitments (£s)	Total central school services block (£s)
2023/24	£43.66	24,187.50	£84,887	£1,140,914
2024/25	£44.86	24,048.50	£67,910	£1,146,726

- 4.2 Merton's Central Schools Services Block retained items are detailed in table 5 below.

Table 5 Central Services School Block (CSSB)	2024/25	2023/24
Description	£'000	£'000
Central licences and subscriptions	125	125
School admissions	311	311
Servicing of school forums	12	12
Prudential borrowing for schools	207	207
Statutory and regulatory duties LAs hold for all schools (including academies & free schools)	412	412
Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG)	80	74
Total Schools Block	1,147	1,141

Decision (h)

Schools Forum approves the Central Services School Block budgets for 2024/25.

5. High Needs Block

- 5.1 The high needs funding system is designed to support a continuum of provision for pupils and students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from their early years to age 25 and Alternative Provision for compulsory school age.
- 5.2 Funding to institutions from the High Needs Block is allocated within the 'place plus' funding approach. The base funding ("place funding") is given to local authorities to commission to institutions for them to provide places on an on-going basis. This is supplemented with "top-up funding" which follows individual pupils and students to receive educational support. The top-up funding provided to local authorities includes funding for central services or statutory duties to support high-cost places.
- 5.3 Final allocations to these budgets will be confirmed at the forthcoming SEND review meeting.

Mainstream settings and SEN

- 5.4 Schools are expected to contribute the first £6,000 of additional educational support for High Needs pupils and students in mainstream settings before additional SEN funding. This additional support is for a provision over and above the standard offer of teaching and learning for all pupils or students in a setting. Pre-16, schools and academies will continue to receive a clearly identified 'notional' SEN budget from which to make this contribution. Merton will provide this budget for maintained schools, while the ESFA will provide it for academies. The notional SEN will comprise three elements as detailed below in table 6 from school block formula.

Table 6 Notional Formula factor	APT Allocation £'000m	2024/25 %	Notional Budget 2024/25 £'000m
Age Weighted Pupil Unit / allowance (AWPU)	116,629	2.5%	2,916
Deprivation (Free School Meals & IDACI)	14,827	10%	1,483
Low cost, high incidence SEN (Low Attainment)	9,335	100%	9,335
	£140,791		£13,734

- 5.5 The total notional SEN budget included within the formula is £13.734m for 2024/25 (£13.503m 2023/24) and should be used to support all pupils with low cost, high incidence SEN, as well as for the first £6,000 support for pupils with EHCPs.
- 5.6 The notional allocation is only a guide and schools are expected to set their budgets in such a way as to meet the needs of all their pupils, including those with additional needs, within the resources available.
- 5.7 Early Years settings with SEN children are funded differently from mainstream schools at SEN support, as all funding is child led. All children whose places are funded through the Early Years Dedicated School Grant (EYDSG) (school nursery classes and Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI)) receive their SEN funding as described in the separate Early Years report.
- 5.8 As part of the consultation with schools and academies for 2024/25 79% of respondents approved the budget £350k (2024/25 £350k) to pay outside of the school formula funding in supporting schools with high numbers of SEN pupils recorded on census. Calculations in 2024/25 will be based upon affordability and percentage applied.
- 5.9 Merton's basic EHCP funding will be kept the same as in 2023/24 and is detailed in the table 7 below.

Table 7	Reception onwards		Universal Entitlement 2, 3 and 4 year olds		Extended Entitlement 2, 3 and 4 year olds	
Band	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24
Band1	Part of £6,000 notional SEN funding	Part of £6,000 notional SEN funding	Part of SEN support funding	Part of SEN support funding	Part of SEN support funding	Part of SEN support funding
Band 2	£5,805	£5,805	£5,903	£5,903	£9,739	£9,739
Band 3	£7,983	£7,983	£6,992	£6,992	£11,536	£11,536
Band 4	£10,160	£10,160	£8,080	£8,080	£13,332	£13,332
Band 5	£12,338	£12,338	£9,169	£9,169	£15,129	£15,129

- 5.10 The band amounts shown for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds are inclusive, and represent the total funds that a setting will receive. This amount funded from two sources; the EYDSG and the "top up" from the High Needs Block (HNB). For children taking up the extended entitlement the EHCP is not transferable and therefore a child can only access one provision. On this basis, the extended hours EHCP is funded at 60%.

Special Schools

- 5.11 Special schools will continue to receive a base level of funding on the basis of an agreed number of planned places, commissioned at £10,000 per place. Top-up funding above this level will be commissioned by the LA for 2024/25 as in previous years.
- 5.12 Since 2021/22 and the introduction of funding in support of the Teachers' Pay Grant (TPG) and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) an addition £660 per place will be paid to specialist SEN settings, including Alternative Provision (AP) in support of the TPG and TPECG that previously was paid outside of the DSG in a grant. There is a minimum place setting of 40 for this additional grant funding as designated by the DfE.
- 5.13 Due to the growth of pupil numbers at special schools, the special school budget will be increased to cover the cost pressure of supporting these additional children and is built into the budget.
- 5.14 The total for special settings includes the school budgets for Cricket Green, Perseid, and Melrose special school.

Additional Resource Provisions (ARPs)

- 5.15 Places in special units and resourced provision attracts a base level of funding of either £6,000 (occupied) or £10,000 (empty) per place, depending on whether a place was occupied or empty at the time of the October census. Each child will also receive a 'top-up' element of funding. Current settings and place numbers as reported in the APT are:

APT - HN 2024/25					
LAESTAB	URN	Institution Name	2023/24 Pre 16 SEN Places	2024/25 Pre 16 SEN Places	Change / growth from last year
3152082	102653	Cranmer Primary School	24	24	0
3152002	141143	Harris Primary Academy Merton	22	22	0
3152059	102632	Hatfeild Primary School	24	24	0
3154052	102674	Raynes Park High School	27	27	0
3154050	102673	Ricards Lodge High School	10	10	0
3154500	102679	Rutlish School	10	10	0
3152004	146401	Stanford Primary School/Alternative	24	24	0
3152081	102652	West Wimbledon Primary School	48	48	0
3152091	102662	Wimbledon Chase Primary School	16	16	0
			205	205	0

- 5.16 Where numbers have decreased due to a setting closure, additional places will be commissioned in another school, and place plus top-up funding will be adjusted to reflect the recommissioned places within the high needs budget. Any additional top up funding banding will be agreed by the Special Schools and ARP Funding Panel.

Pupil Referral Unit

- 5.17 The PRU (Canterbury Campus) will receive a base level of funding of £10,000 per commissioned place. Top-up funding above this level is set at £6,800 (total place plus top up £16,800 per place). The medical PRU is funded differently.
- 5.18 Mainstream schools and Academies have important commissioning responsibilities with regards to pupils of compulsory school age who are placed in Alternative Provision (AP) for the purpose of early intervention or as a result of fixed-term exclusion. In such instances they are responsible for paying top-up funding to the AP settings in which they place pupils.
- 5.19 Alternative education and medical service provision are also delivered through Merton's PRU (Canterbury and Lavender campuses).
- 5.20 The exclusion process involves a deduction of Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU), using national criteria and a local agreement, meaning that each school will pay £3,000 per excluded pupil and receive £3,000 for a re-integrated pupil. This agreement is between all secondary maintained schools and academies and will continue in 2024/25.

Centrally retained funding for Commissioned Services

- 5.21 These services are retained centrally by the Local Authority to deliver direct services or procure services from external providers to ensure the most economic use of resources and totals £26.692m..The following table (8) identifies these services:

Table 8
Description
Cost of Merton pupils in other LA maintained schools
Cost to other LAs for their children in Merton maintained schools
Merton academies (individual SEN EHCPs)
Virtual school
Sensory team
Schools' standards quality core offer
Language and learning therapy
Other non-maintained school related costs
Behaviour support
Education welfare
SEN referral and early help 0-25 team
Vulnerable children's education
Social inclusion
Merton Autism Outreach Service (MAOS)
SEN support
Therapy in special schools
Independent hospital provision
Portage
Independent Providers
Independent Residential placements
Post 16 providers (FE & ISP)

- 5.22 Of the centrally retained services funding, Merton has tried to limit cost pressures as far as possible. The increase in number of EHCPs has however resulted in major cost pressure on independent, residential placements and out of borough provision.
- 5.23 The growth received on the HNB is not sufficient to cover the rising cost pressures. For 2024/25 the growth will be allocated against various budgets with known pressures to address the expected overspends, but still leaves a shortfall to meet growth and demand and cost-effective savings to achieve a balanced budget and within the delivery of the Safety Valve agreement.

Post 16 Further Education (FE) College and Independent Specialist Provider (ISP) funding

- 5.24 The funding in this area relates to high level SEN costs for young people aged over 16 in Further Education (FE) colleges and Individual Service Providers (ISPs). The responsibility for these payments transferred to Local Authorities within the Children and Families Act 2013 with statutory educational responsibility for young people up to the age of 25.

Centrally retained funding for special schools

- 5.25 This includes the funding for centrally provided services for the special schools, similar to de-delegated budgets held for the maintained primary and secondary schools. The services available are detailed in table 9

Table 9	
Service	Total £
Licences and Subscriptions	£3,000
School Meals Subsidy	£2,000
Schools in Challenging Circumstances	£10,000
Parenting and TU cover	£17,017
Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners	£2,000
Tree work	£2,000
Behaviour Support	£5,000
School Improvement	£4,000
Attain	£2,000
Total budget	£47,017

Central Duties to maintained schools (ESG)

- 5.26 In order to maintain the statutory central duties to Merton maintained schools (the services previously funded by the Education Service Grant (ESG)); schools are required to make a contribution towards these services based on numbers on roll through the AWPU factor (top-up NOR for special schools).

- 5.27 For 2024/25 £629k is contributed from the Schools' Block while £21k comes from the High Needs Block for special schools (same contribution for 2023/24).

Transfers from other blocks

- 5.28 For 2024/25 Merton will transfer £781k from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block (£748k in 2023/24). This represents 0.5% of the Schools Block allocation and will be used to continue to fund the growing cost pressure of SEN within the DSG.
- 5.29 A disapplication request has been submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) on 17th November 2023 to transfer an additional £500k (cash) from the school block to the high needs block.

Recommendation (i)

Schools' Forum to comment and note the budget setting of the High Needs Block for 2024/25.

Financial pressure on the High Needs Block

- 5.30 Since January 2016 the number of EHCP has increased from 1075 to its current level of 2486.
- 5.31 As at the 31st December 2023, Merton maintained 2563 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), an increase of 92 in comparison with the same time last year. Management of the number of EHCPs is one of the actions required by the DfE within the Safety Valve Programme.

DSG Safety Valve

- 5.32 Due to the ongoing cost pressures within the High Needs Block, Merton's reported cumulative DSG deficit for 2022/23 closedown was £34m. Ongoing pressures, including our continued, relatively high number of EHCPs; the impact of inflation on non-maintained independent placement costs; and a lower than expected High Needs Block uplift in 2024/25, means that this pressure is expected to continue and grow.
- 5.33 After acceptance of the DfE Safety Valve Programme in January 2022, Merton continues to address the HNB deficit robustly, through the DfE Safety Valve actions, which are considered by the DSG deficit subgroup of the Schools' Forum.
- 5.34 As part of the Safety Valve agreement, whilst we continue to address the agreed actions, Merton receives funding from the DfE in support for the ongoing deficit of £2.625 million per year from 2023/24 to 2026/27. Quarterly reporting to the DfE, with regards to activity and progress towards bringing the DSG back into balance, is a requirement.

Recommendation (j)

Schools' Forum notes and comments on ongoing Safety Valve Programme.

6. Financial, resource and property implications

6.1 The financial implications are detailed in the main body of this report.

7. Legal and statutory implications

7.1 No legal implications at this stage.

8. Human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications

8.1 None at this stage.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1: ISB allocation

9.2 Appendix 2: Funding Formula rates

9.3 Appendix 3: Consultation responses

10. Background Papers – the following documents have been relied on in drawing up this report but do not form part of the report:

10.1 Centrally held financial information and other papers held by the Corporate Services Finance Team.

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Further information about Merton Council can be obtained from its web site

www.merton.gov.uk