

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HAVERING
SCHOOLS FUNDING FORUM**

**Thursday 11th December 2025 via Teams.
(8.00am – 9.10am)**

Present:

LA Maintained School Representatives:

Primary	Kirsten Cooper (KC) Hayley McClenaghan David Unwin-Bailey Mike Ross (also representing the Diocese of Brentwood)
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Special	Emma Allen (EA)
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Academy Representatives:

Primary	Chris Hobson (CH)
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Secondary	David Turrell (Vice Chair) (also representing Post 16) Paul Larnar (also representing Post 16) Neil Frost (NF) Scott McGuinness (SM)
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Special	Andy Smith
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AP Academy	Tony Machin
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Non-School Representatives:

Early Years PVI Sector:	Demi*
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Trade Unions:	Julia Newman (JN) (Support staff union representative) John McGill (JM) (Teaching staff union representative)
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Non-Members in attendance:

Angela Adams	Clerk, HGS
Trevor Cook (TC)	Assistant Director of Education
Katherine Heffernan (KH)	Head of Finance (Business Partnering)
Lisa Jones	Principal Education Finance Officer
Hany Moussa (HM)	Principal Education Finance Officer
Jacqueline Treacy (JT)	Senior Inspector for schools casing concern -HSIS)

*for part of the meeting

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW MEMBERS, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OR OBSERVERS

All were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies were received from the following Forum Members:

Georgina Delmonte (cluster F)
Chris Speller (cluster E)
Kavan Cheema- Strategic Business Partner

There were no substitutes in attendance.

2. HIGH NEEDS FUNDING

Forum members were asked to:

Provide feedback and approve the Local Authority (LA) to issue the final consultation document, after any changes agreed being made.

The consultation document set out the key points for Havering. These were noted as follows:

- Transfer of Funding to High Needs Block
- Earmarking Schools Block funding for Growth and Falling Rolls
- Full Adoption of National Funding Formula Factors
- Setting MFG at -0.5% or 0.0%
- Capping of Funding Formula for Affordability

There would be 3 questions in the consultation document:

- Do you support the transfer of 0.5% of Schools Block Funding to the High Needs Block to be funded by capping?
- Do you support the allocation of £0.53m to fund growth and falling rolls to be funded by capping?
- Which level should we set MFG? 0.0 or -0.5%?

The consultation document would be circulated and the deadline for a response was agreed as 9th January 2026, results would be shared as part of the papers for the meeting on 15th January 2026.

KH advised that final figures were still awaited from the DfE and those included in the document at this time were for illustrative purposes only. Final figures were expected on 16th December 2025.

Question 1: Forum members noted that they had already voted on the transfer of 0.5% to the High Needs block.

Question 2: The policy had been agreed and the fund would cost £0.53M, this may need to be reviewed in January.

TC noted that High Needs should still be included so evidence could be gathered to present to the DfE. It was further noted that a sustainable schools strategy for falling rolls would be drawn up based on cluster feedback.

It was further noted that once the LA had fully transferred to using the National Funding Formula (NFF) it would be very difficult to move away from it.

Question 3: Only a few schools were now attracting the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) and the range, .0 or –0.5% was set by the DfE. A final vote would be held once final figures were available.

In response to a question raised by SM it was advised that anonymised figures would be available in January, each school would be aware of their own figures and it should not matter what other schools were allocated. KC confirmed schools had never been named in the past.

SM questioned the level of funding allocated to other schools when his school was in a similar position and they were allocated more funding. HM advised that all schools should now be on the NFF but could be affected by different demographics. HM advised that in previous years this was protected but now it had been transferred to MFG which took 10 years to be fully embedded. Funding was based on pupil numbers and deprivation factors. SM again stated that he was losing funding to schools that were in a better financial position than his school. SM requested the sight of un-anonymised data. JM commented that he could not see why the data had to be anonymised, finance should be as transparent as possible.

NF stated that the role of the funding forum was to consult on all schools not individual schools. KC also noted that her primary colleagues were all very open about their financial position and that the drop in funding may not relate to MFG, although it was good to challenge.

KH advised that the MFG protected schools both nationally and locally, it protected from fluctuations in data and deprivation was updated every 5 years. Most schools in Havering were now under MFG.

KC advised that forum members should vote on what was good for all, funding was a challenge for everyone. KC asked all clusters to encourage schools to complete the consultation so funding decisions could be finalised at the January meeting.

3. NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 15 January 2026
Thursday 12 February 2026
Thursday 11th June 2026

Meetings to start at 8.00am at CEME either in room 233 or 235.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no additional business items.

The Chair thanked Forum members for their contributions.

Meeting closed at 8:40am