

Checklist for report writing

NB: these front pages to be removed once the report is signed off at executive directors and before issuing to committee services.

It is it important to ensure all relevant service areas are involved in the production of this report from an early stage. The following approvals checklist must be signed/completed before the report is presented to Executive Directors for sign-off. Failure to do so will result in delays for sign-off and subsequent issuing to Committee Services.

Before starting your report you may find it helpful to refer to the following guidance” [How do I write a council / cabinet / committee report? - SC Intranet \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](http://shropshire.gov.uk). This covers most issues you should take into account including how to involve the Portfolio Holder in the process.”

Finance

Report author to liaise with the appropriate Finance Business Partner (listed below) at the beginning of the report writing process.

Finance Business Partner (FBP) to ensure the Strategic Finance Business Partner then reviews and clears the report who in turn will ensure the Assistant Director of Finance & Technology has reviewed and cleared the report before it is uploaded for Executive Director sign-off.

NB: If there any implications for **Capital** then the Finance Business Partners for Capital need to also clear the report.

Service Area	Finance Business Partner (FBP)	Strategic Finance Manager (Cheryl Sedgley)	Assistant Director of Finance & Technology (Ben Jay)
		Signature/Initial and dated	Signature/Initial and dated
Adults	Michelle Ealey		
Children's	Stephen A Waters		
Place	Craig Felton		
Health, Wellbeing & Prevention	Chris Scott		
Resources	Molly Sullivan		
Capital Projects	Donna Payne or Michaela Probert		

Legal

Report author to liaise with Tim Collard and Miranda Garrard at the beginning of the report writing process. They will then discuss which of them will review and approve.

Name	Signature/Initial and Dated
Tim Collard	
Miranda Garrard	

Risk Management

All reports to be reviewed and cleared by Jane Cooper or Saskia Richardson. Report author to involve them in the process as early as possible.

Name	Signature/Initial and Dated
Saskia Richardson	

Workforce Development (HR)

Where applicable, reports to be reviewed and cleared by the Strategic HR Business Partner. Report author to liaise with Workforce Development at the beginning of the report writing process.

Name	Directorate	Signature/Initial and Dated
Debbie A Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children's• Shires• Care and Wellbeing	
Chantell Carson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrastructure<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communities and Customer	
Lisa Drew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enabling• Legal• Commissioning<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategy	
Deb Smith—Senior HR Advisor (Schools)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools	

Climate Change

All reports to be reviewed and cleared by Simon Stallard. Report author to involve him in the process as early as possible.

Name	Signature/Initial and Dated
Tom Dodds	

Service Director Sign-off

All reports to be reviewed and cleared by the relevant Service Director before going to the Executive Group for sign-off.

Name	Signature/Initial and Dated
David Shaw	<u>Approved 26/01/26</u>

Executive Group Sign-off

Executive Group to review and clear report and confirm all checks above have been done.

Name of Director	Signature/Initial and Dated
Tanya Miles	
Rachel Robinson	<u>RR 27/01/26</u>
James Walton	

Portfolio Holder/Leader Sign-off

Report Author/PA to confirm the relevant Portfolio Holder has reviewed the report before publication.

Name of Portfolio Holder	Dated Reviewed
Andy Hall	
Heather Kidd, Leader	



Committee and Date

Cabinet

11th February 2026

Item

Public



Shropshire Schools Funding Formula 2026-27

Responsible Officer:		David Shaw
email:	David.shaw@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel: 01743 256479
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder): Andy Hall		

1. Synopsis

Considering the recommendations of the Schools Forum and aligned to the Department for Education (DFE) operational guidance on schools revenue funding, approval is sought from Cabinet for the proposed Shropshire Schools Funding Formula 2026-27.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. In December 2025 the Department for Education (DFE) published the school revenue guidance for local authorities and schools forums. The guidance confirmed the arrangements for distributing funding through the national funding formula (NFF) for schools, high needs and central services to schools.
- 2.2. At their meeting on 22 January 2018, Cabinet approved the recommendation from Shropshire Schools Forum to replicate the NFF, through Shropshire's local funding formula, which means 2026-27 will be the ninth year of the NFF being applied to the funding of the county's schools and academies.

- 2.3. The DFE require the proposed formula for 2026-27 to be politically approved. This paper therefore sets out the proposals, agreed by the Shropshire Schools Forum on 22 January 2026, for Cabinet approval.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Cabinet accept the recommendation of Shropshire Schools Forum on the funding formula for Shropshire schools for the financial year 2026-27 for maintained schools, and the academic year 2026-27 for academies.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The Secretary of State for Education announced in September 2017 planned changes to the school funding arrangements for 2018-19 and future years, placing a requirement on local authorities to formally consult with their maintained schools and academies on the schools funding formula to be applied in their local authority area.
- 4.2. Shropshire schools were consulted in the Autumn term 2017 on the basis for distributing the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to Shropshire schools and academies. Following this consultation Shropshire Schools Forum recommended, and Cabinet agreed, the distribution of individual school budgets for 2018-19 and future years would be aligned with and mirror the transitional NFF announced by the Government in July 2017.
- 4.3. Local authorities continue to have responsibility for determining their local funding formulas for allocating the Schools Block to their individual schools in 2026-27. As in the current financial year 2025-26 it will be compulsory for local authorities to include the national minimum per pupil funding levels in their local formulas for 2026-27.
- 4.4. The Government has confirmed plans to move to a 'direct' NFF in the future, which will determine school funding allocations directly, rather than through local funding formulae. There is currently no indication from the Government as to when this will take place.
- 4.5. At their meeting on 22 January 2026, Shropshire Schools Forum considered the specific arrangements for 2026-27, with a view to these arrangements being approved by Cabinet at their meeting in the Spring term, in line with DFE guidance.
- 4.6. The proposed school funding formula, in complying with the Government guidelines, does not present any identified risks either to the local authority or schools.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The school funding formula is used to determine how part of the Council's DSG allocation, in particular the Schools Block, is distributed to Shropshire maintained schools and academies. The individual school 'budget shares' determined by the formula represent a significant proportion of the annual revenue funding for maintained schools for the financial year, and funding for academies for the academic year.
- 5.2. The funding for maintained schools is distributed through the local authority, while the DFE uses the formula to allocate funding directly to Shropshire's academies and the county's free schools.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. There are no anticipated climate change implications from the proposals within this report, though the authority continues to work with school leaders, governors and trustees on the opportunities for applying carbon reduction measures in the operation of their schools.

7. Background

- 7.1. The latest guidance on schools revenue funding arrangements for 2026-27 was published by the DFE in December 2025.
- 7.2. For 2026-27, the following key elements of the schools NFF will apply:
 - The Primary minimum per pupil funding level (MPPL) has increased from £4,955 to £5,115 - 3.13% and the Secondary MPPL has increased from £6,465 to £6,640 – 2.64%. These levels are included within the NFF within the Authority Proforma Tool (APT).
 - Growth funding will be based on the same methodology as last year.
 - Shropshire Schools Forum has a statutory consultative and advisory role in respect of school funding, while the responsibility for determining and approving the funding formula rests with the local authority. Schools Forum considered a paper on the School Funding Arrangements 2026-27 at their meeting on 22 January 2026 – a copy of the report is appended to this report (Appendix A). This includes confirming the affordability of applying the NFF and making a transfer to the High Needs Block.
- 7.3. As well as applying the NFF factor values and weightings, Schools Forum agreed the following:
 - To transfer 0.5% of the Schools Block, into the High Needs Block after fully funding individual schools in line with the NFF.
 - Outcome – it has been possible to transfer 0.5% (model figure of £1,165,244) of the Schools Block into the High Needs Block after fully funding schools in line with the NFF.

- Shropshire's allocation followed NFF factor values provided in the APT for 2026-27.

8. Additional Information

8.1 Additional funding will be received in the High Needs Block to support mainstream schools and non-mainstream schools, including special schools.

9. Conclusions

9.1. Cabinet is recommended to approve a schools funding formula for 2026-27 that delivers funding to Shropshire schools and academies through the application of the NFF formula factors and weightings

Schools revenue funding 2026-27 - Operational Guide: [Schools operational guide: 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)

Schools Forum Website: [Schools Forum Website — Shropshire Council](#)

Local Member: All Members

Appendices

Appendix A – Cabinet Paper copy of paper B – Schools Funding Arrangements 2026-27
