

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**6<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

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**4. Education Support Grant Budget 2017-18**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the new arrangements for the Education Support Grant. The report also requests the Schools' Forum approval to retain the Education Support Grant so that this can be used to fund its statutory duties as outlined and required by the Department of Education to Schools and Academies.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Slough Borough Council recommends that the Education Support Grant which has now been transferred into the Schools' Block be retained by the council to enable it to perform its statutory duties.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Council has recently taken back the school service from Cambridge Education. These services included the statutory functions that the DFE requires the Council to perform. In order to provide these services the council will require the contribution from the Education Support Grant.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None considered.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 This is not new money. It is funding the council has received in a different way for several years. This funding has reduced from £1,369k in 2016/17 to £430k for next year. For 2017/18 the Government has decided to move the ESG into the Schools Block.
- 5.2 It is also pertinent to point out that if the DFE had implemented its school funding reforms, the Council would have received this funding

automatically in the new centrally retained, 4<sup>th</sup> block, for its statutory obligations within the DSG.

5.3 The council intend to spend in 2017-18 £1,036,810 on ESG services, which is broken down into Council funding £606,810 and contribution from the School block from ESG allocation of £430,000.

5.4 The funding will support the following School Improvement activities provided by Slough Borough Council

Area	Budget
<p><b>Education Welfare Service.</b> The statutory Education welfare functions include the promotion of good attendance for all children and young people, enforcement duties on behalf of schools and Academies for non attendance and the licensing processes for the employment and engagement in entertainment activities by children and young people. Additional activity includes monitoring of attendance and the early intervention in cases of absence giving cause for concern in schools and academies. EWS performs an essential role in safeguarding and family support. The newly established MASH will include an Education Welfare Officer.</p>	215,018
<p><b>School Improvement support.</b> From October 2017 to March 2018 all School improvement and raising standards will be funded from the Education support grant, in previous year some services have been funded from ESG and some from the School block centrally retained budget. Statutory duties for school improvement include the overall monitoring of provision and standards in schools and academies on behalf of children and families and in accordance with published strategy and policy for schools of concern. Funding supports the leadership of the service and a very small core team of education advisers who will perform the partnership and intervention function for maintained schools and academies as appropriate. The team will manage the traded services of Consultants and the data systems and processes necessary to analyse outcomes for schools, groups and individuals. The service also supports the inclusion and safeguarding duties of the Council and the Trust. Brokering of school to school partnerships, training and support from local, regional and National providers and leading on Slough improvement partnership, including governors, is key to the activity funded from this resource.</p>	412,589

<b>Asset Management</b> - Education	19,049
<b>Statutory and Regulatory duties.</b> Contributions to the statutory posts of DCS , business support for school improvements and systems for strategic information returns are funded from this contribution together with the provision of training, moderation and monitoring of the administration of statutory tests and assessments .	384,045
Monitoring national curriculum assessment	6,109
Total	<b>£1,036,810</b>

## 6 **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

### Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

### Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

## 7 **CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 None.

### Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not applicable.

### Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

### Background Papers

None

### Contact for further information

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