

<b>Schools Forum 13 January 2023</b>	
<b>Report from Executive Director of People - Children Services</b>	
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant 2023/23 Schools Budget</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Appendix A – High-level Funding Analysis
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## 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed DSG Schools Budget for consultation with, and recommendation by, Schools Forum ahead of the Council budget being set and approved by full Council.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To comply with regulation and to furnish Schools Forum with the relevant information regarding schools' funding.
- 2.2 Schools Forum is asked to **reconfirm** its November 2022 decision to transfer £0.714m (0.44%) from the Schools Block to support the High Needs Block and £0.1m (0.06%) to CSSB block to fund the admission team. DfE regulations permit up to 0.5% of the Schools Block to be transferred with Schools Forum approval.
- 2.3 Schools Forum is asked to **recommend** the budget for the DSG blocks, including the mainstream funding formula to Slough Borough Council.

## 3 Summary- 2022/23 DSG Funding Announcements

- 3.1. In November 2022, Schools Forum was presented with the **provisional** DSG allocations, which were published in July 2022. The **final** DSG block funding allocations were announced on 16 December 2022, based on pupil numbers in the October 2022 census. This report gives an update of the final Schools Block allocations to include the growth funding allocation.

DSG Block	2022/23 Funding	2023/24 Funding	Change	Change
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
<b>Schools Block #</b>	<b>159,653</b>	<b>162,757</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>1.94%</b>
<b>High Needs Block</b>	<b>31,525</b>	<b>34,597</b>	<b>3,073</b>	<b>9.74%</b>
<b>Central Schools Services Block</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5.65%</b>
<b>Early Year Block</b>	<b>14,461</b>	<b>15,532</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>7.41%</b>
	<b>206,382</b>	<b>213,671</b>	<b>7,290</b>	<b>3.53%</b>

# In addition there is a provisional additional schools block allocation of £5.433 million in 2023/24. When added to the schools block funding above this potentially takes mainstream schools funding to £168.190m. This is an increase of £8.538m (5.35%) above 2022/23 funding levels.

- 3.2. For 2023/24, the growth funding allocation changed from £0.950m in 2022/23 to £0.558 in 2023/24. This reduction in Growth Funding is due to the need for fewer additional classes from September 2023.
- 3.3. The final High Needs Block allocation has been announced at £34.597m, an increase of £1.449m from the provisional allocation announced in July 2021. This is £3.073m more than the allocation for 2022/23 and represents a funding increase of 9.74%. The number of children with Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) is continuing to increase, therefore in addition to a number of measures outlined in the DSG management plan.
- 3.4. Schools Forum agreed a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block and Central School Services Block in November 2022. A detailed breakdown of the high needs block budget will be presented to Schools Forum in March 2023.
- 3.5. The Early Years Block allocations were also published in December 2022, which included an increase in the 2 year olds rate from £6.25 to £6.87 and increase of £0.62 (9.92%). Also an increase in the 3 & 4 year olds rate from £6.10 to £6.27 an increase of £0.17 (2.79%).
- 3.6. Early Years funding rate options for 2023/24 are currently being consulted on with sector providers and a report will be presented to Schools Forum in March 2023.
- 3.7. The Central School Services Block income was confirmed at £0.785m, an increase of £42k compared to 2022/23. This includes a small reduction of funding for historic commitments, and an increase in funding for ongoing commitments.

#### **4 Schools Block Expenditure – Mainstream Funding Formula**

- 4.1 A consultation took place in the autumn 2022 with mainstream schools and academies on options for allocating and headroom in the DSG Schools Block through the Authority Proforma Tool (APT). Most respondents preferred to allocate any headroom through Basic Entitlement and this was endorsed by Schools Forum at its November 2022 meeting.
- 4.2 Mainstream schools and academies funding modelling is currently underway and indications are that there will be funding headroom similar to the amount reported to Schools Forum in November 2022. The deadline for submitting the APT to the DfE is Friday 20 January 2022 so it is too early to give Schools Forum an indication on the impact of final the modelling on individual Schools and Academies.
- 4.3 Also, the Schools Forum November 2022 report highlighted a DfE consultation that took place over the summer 2022 with the outcome that Local Authorities had to move closer to the ‘hard’ National Funding Formula.
- 4.4 Appendix A provides a high-level analysis of the Schools Block DSG and current funding allocations but may be subject to change as the modelling develops.

#### **5 Growth Fund**

- 5.1 The growth fund budget in 2023/24 is £0.565m and a detailed Growth Fund report is being presented to this Schools Forum

#### **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The financial implications have been detailed in the body of this paper. Any additional funding received would go towards mitigating inflationary costs pressures faced by schools.

#### **7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

No alternative options were considered.

#### **8 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Not applicable

#### **9 Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications for this report.

#### **10 Equality Implications**

Not applicable