

Schools Management Forum

Report of: Dianne Nielsen

Subject: 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Central School Services Block (CSSB)

Date: 12th January 2022

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To provide a breakdown of services potentially to be provided from the Central School Services Block (CSSB) retained budget.

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 Notify the Schools Management Forum (SMF) of the amount of DSG CSSB funding for 2022/23.
- 2.2 Highlight the reduction in grant funding for historic cost items and the pressure this creates on the budget.
- 2.3 Agree the services to be funded from the CSSB.

3.0 DSG Central Services Block

- 3.1 The total of the CSSB for 2022/23 as per the settlement is £1,042,205. As advised in 2021/22, this now includes Teachers’ Pension Employer Contribution (TPECG) funding for centrally employed teachers. The CSSB funding is for the ongoing responsibilities and historic commitments. The grant has reduced overall by £20.5k from 2021/22 of which the historic element has reduced by £47.6k. The DfE have indicated that this element will reduce by 20% year on year, and will be nil once the hard funding formula is implemented.
- 3.2 The services that are proposed to be funded from the Central School Services Block in 2022/23 are as follows:

	£	
Copyright Licenses for Schools	117,342	Ongoing
Admissions	185,700	Ongoing
Speech & Language Contract	222,348	Historic
Contribution to Local Authority Designated Officer	15,000	Historic

	£	
Schools Forum	5,200	Ongoing
SEN Home to School Transport	40,000	Historic
Statutory Services for all Schools (previously funded by ESG)	408,264	Ongoing
Central Services Overheads to support the above	65,500	Historic (£11,368) / Ongoing (£54,132)
TPECG for Centrally Employed Teachers	67,725	Ongoing
Unallocated (ongoing responsibilities)	13,378	Ongoing
TOTAL	1,140,457	
TOTAL DSG CSSB Grant	1,042,205	
Shortfall in Funding	-98,252	

- 3.3 The above commitments has put a pressure on the budget of £98,252.
- 3.4 As the grant does not allow us to increase costs above the historic funding element for those commitments classified as historic, the proposal is that the DSG High Needs Block will fund the shortfall to support the continuation of the Speech & Language contract.
- 3.5 Of the ongoing responsibilities grant element, this leaves an unallocated amount of £13,378. Due to reduction in funding and the uncertainty of funding, the proposal is for this to be carried forward into reserves to support future years funding shortfalls.

4.0 Centrally Retained Budgets

- 4.1 The following paragraphs explain in a bit more detail the services provided/paid for in each case.
- 4.2 The Copyright Licences budget pays for Copyright charges that the Council pay on behalf of all Middlesbrough Schools. The amounts deducted at source from the Council's DSG CSSB allocation received from the DfE.
- 4.3 The Admissions service consists of six members of staff and a budget for Admissions appeals. The appeals service is ran by Hartlepool Council on our behalf.
- 4.4 The Speech & Language budget pays for the Speech & Language SLA ran by South Tees CCG on behalf of all Middlesbrough Schools.
- 4.5 Contribution to Local Authority Designated Officer – This is a statutory post and provides safeguarding support and advice to all Middlesbrough Schools.
- 4.6 Schools Management Forum – This budget pays for the room hire and administration costs of Schools Management Forum meetings only. All other costs for officer support are included in other areas below.

Agenda Item 5

- 4.7 SEN Home to School Transport – This is a contribution to the Home to School Transport service which is provided by the Council.
- 4.8 Statutory Services for all Schools – This budget covers the statutory services/posts that the LA have to administer on behalf of Schools. These include the Education Welfare and Asset Management services. In addition to this, the budget also includes a contribution towards the Director and Management costs of the service.
- 4.9 The central overheads budget pays for the elements of support provided to the Education Department by finance, procurement, property, valuations, payroll, HR ICT, cleaning and building maintenance.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 Schools Management Forum members to note the decrease in the Central School Services Block (CSSB) grant funding and budget.
- 5.2 Schools Management Forum members to note the contribution in 2022/23 from the DSG High Needs Block to support the continuation of the Speech and Language contract in 2022/23.
- 5.3 Schools Management Forum agree the services to be funded from the Central School Services Block (CSSB).