

<b>Schools Management Forum</b>
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**Report of:**       **Craig Povey**

**Subject:**       **2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Central School Services Block (CSSB)**

**Date:**       **18<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

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**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 2023/24.
- 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 2023/24 as per the settlement is £1,043,137. 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 the historic element by 20%, as indicated last year, by £38.1k. 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. There is an increase of 4.6% for "ongoing responsibilities" element, increase of £39k.

- 3.2 The services that are proposed to be funded from the Central School Services Block in 2023/24 are as follows:

	£	
Copyright Licenses for Schools	123,209	Ongoing
Admissions	215,379	Ongoing
Speech & Language Contract - estimated	250,000	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)	431,595	Ongoing
Central Services Overheads to support the above	68,775	Historic (£11,368) / Ongoing (£54,132)
TPECG for Centrally Employed Teachers	57,975	Ongoing
Unallocated (ongoing responsibilities)	0	Ongoing
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,207,133</b>	
<b>TOTAL DSG CSSB Grant</b>	<b>1,043,137</b>	
<b>Shortfall in Funding</b>	<b>-163,996</b>	

- 3.3 The above commitments have put an estimated pressure on budget of £163,996.
- 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.

#### 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.

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- 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.
- 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 Historic element of Central School Services Block (CSSB) and increase in ongoing responsibilities element of CSSB grant funding and overall budget set for 2023/24.
- 5.2 Schools Management Forum members to note the contribution in 2023/24 from the DSG High Needs Block to support the continuation of the Speech and Language contract in 2023/24.
- 5.3 Schools Management Forum agree the services to be funded from the Central School Services Block (CSSB).