

Schools Forum

26 September 2022

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) 2023/24

This report is for information

1. Recommendations:

That Schools Forum members:

- 1.1 Note the contents of the report.
- 1.2 To consider and approve the provisional 2023/24 CSSB budget.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To inform members on 2021/22 CSSB outturn, provisional 2023/24 allocation and to seek approval for same.
- 2.2 Forum members should note that 2023/24 will change when the October 2022 census figures is finalised.

3. Report Details

- 3.1 In 2023/24 the central schools services block (CSSB) will continue to have two distinct elements:
 - ongoing responsibilities, which funds all local authorities (LA) for central functions they have to deliver for all pupils in maintained schools and academies;
 - historic commitments, which funds some LAs for commitments they made prior to 2013-14 that are unwinding.
- 3.2 Funding for ongoing responsibilities includes a protection to ensure no LA sees losses of greater than 2.5% per pupil, compared to 2022-23. The gains cap will be set at 5.86%, the highest possible value within the limits of the available budget.
- 3.3 Funding for historic commitments is being reduced by 20% from LAs' 2022-23 allocations, in line with our previously announced intention to begin to reduce this funding.

- 3.4 The Schools Forum received provisional 2021/22 CSSB outturn at its meeting on 20th July 2022. The outturn table as well as latest 2022/23 allocation is repeated at Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Central School Services Block

Service Area	Budget 2021/22 (£'000)	Actual Expenditure (£'000)	Variance (£'000)	2022/23 Allocation (£'000)
School Forum	3	0	(3)	3
Pension Administration	182	182	0	146
Stat/Regulatory/Education Welfare/Asset Mgt	1,288	1288	0	1,358
Admissions & Appeals	453	453	0	453
Copyright Licenses*	323	323	0	323
Total	2,249	2,246	(3)	2,283

*Copyright Licenses costs are paid for directly by the DfE and the DSG grant allocation paid to the authority is adjusted accordingly.

- 3.5 The provisional 2023/24 was announced in July 2022 by the DfE. The allocation is £2.297m. This is made up of £2.18m of on-going responsibilities and £0.117m of historic commitment.
- 3.6 The only known figure is the 20% reduction in historic commitment. Where possible, we have retained proposed allocation same as 2022/23 levels and any additional allocation has been earmarked against Statutory responsibilities.
- 3.7 The initial allocation of 2023/24 CSSB is as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – 2023/24 Central School Services Block Budget

Service Area	2023/24 CSSB Budget (£'000)
School Forum	3
Pension Administration Historic Commitment	117
Stat/Regulatory/Education Welfare/Asset Mgt	1,518
Admissions & Appeals	453

Copyright Licenses*	323
Total	2,297

3.8 Copyright licenses will change to actual sum and will be advised by the DfE sometime early in 2023. In addition, the October census will inform the overall CSSB. Once known, the School's Forum will be updated and informed.

4. Recommendations

That Schools Forum

4.1 Note the contents of the report.

4.2 To consider and approve the provisional 2023/24 CSSB budget.

4.3 Be advised that the CSSB is still subject to further changes when the actual Copyright licenses fees and outcome of October 2022 census becomes known. The Schools forum will be updated once this is known.

Abioye Asimolowo, Head of Finance Business Partnering - People Date: 26/09/2022 Contact Officer: Elaine Taylor
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