

# Report to School Forum

**11 December 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Budget Monitor – Period 7 (31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023)
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Children and Education Michael Jarrett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Elaine Taylor (elaine_taylor@sandwell.gov.uk)

## 1 Recommendations


1.1 The Schools' Forum is requested to note the report.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations




2.1 The Schools Forum Regulations 2012 requires that the Schools' Forum meets regularly and is consulted by the local authority concerning the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), including budget and various related matters.

2.2 The Schools' Forum is requested to comment and note the contents of the report in relation to 2023/24 DSG Budget monitor for period 7.

## 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p><b>Best start in life for children and young people</b> Delegated grant funding of High Needs in support of children with <b>early identification of SEN</b>, and to ensure they are ready <b>for school</b>, and schools being ready for children and families including suitable provision within schools in the community and being able to support that readiness and long term promotion of becoming good citizens within the community.</p>
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	Delivery of programmes that specifically address language development within the borough, working with schools and families.
	<b>Strong resilient communities</b> Enhancement of existing green spaces, by creating new places to play and commitment of planting a tree for every child <b>starting school</b> up to 2030.
	<b>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</b> Ensure new quality homes being driven by our inclusive Economy principles benefit local people but communities having access to suitable <b>good schools</b> , health services and local amenities.
	<b>A strong and inclusive economy</b> Delivery of new major <b>education facilities</b> and aspiration for <b>SEN children and young people</b> to achieve own goals working with education providers in ensuring good jobs.

#### 4. Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

- 4.1 The DSG is forecasting an in-year surplus of £1.593m at the end of period 7 (October 2023). When added to the surplus at the end of 2022/23 (of £5.560m), the overall position is a forecast surplus of (£7.153m). Table 1 below is a summary of the overall DSG position. Explanation of major variances (surplus or deficit) are highlighted in the rest of this section whilst detailed budget monitor is as shown below.
- 4.2 This report should be read in conjunction with the HNB budget monitoring report presented separately to the school's forum at this meeting.

**Table 1: Summary DSG Position at the end of Period 7 (October 2023) (£'000)**

Block	Bal b/f 2022/23	Allocation	Forecast	Variance (Surplus/Deficit)	Forecast bal c/f 2023/24
Schools Block	216	151,221	151,221	0	216
High Needs Block (HNB)	(5,759)	67,309	65,836	(1,473)	(7,232)
Early Year's Block (EYB)	(18)	25,490	25,370	(120)	(138)
Central Schools Services Block	(1)	2,307	2,307	0	(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(5,560)</b>	<b>246,327</b>	<b>244,734</b>	<b>(1,593)</b>	<b>(7,153)</b>



## 5.1 Schools Block – Break even

The Schools Block is forecast to breakeven in this financial year.

## 5.2 High Needs Block (HNB) £1.473m surplus

The HNB is forecasting a surplus of £1.473m at the end of Period 7 (October 2023). This is due to the inter-play of the following issues.

Out of borough placements, show a £0.404m savings. The main reasons for the savings are the number of pupils being placed in independent schools.

The total variances, in SEN & Support for Inclusion Services, equate to a saving of £189k across 10 service areas. These are mainly due to staff turnover, maternity leave, opting out of the LA superannuation scheme and full-time budgeted posts covered by staff on reduced hours and the inclusion of 2023/24 pay awards

SEN development is showing an underspend of £0.760m. It holds the HNB surplus balancing figure of £1.200m.

## 5.3 Early Years Block (EYB) £0.12m surplus

The current EYB budget is set at £25.4m as per the latest DSG (July 2023) allocation. It is anticipated, based on the current budget there will be an in-year underspend of £0.12m

There has been a decrease in 2-year old pupils for the Summer term when compared to previous years and an increase in 3 and 4-year old pupils. Using previous years data trend, it is forecast to show an breakeven position against the March 2023 DSG allocation. It is also anticipated that the Disability Access Fund will show an underspend of £0.12m



## 6. Schools

- 6.1 Schools financial position are not usually reported until the end of the financial year. Therefore, detailed position will be available when the provisional outturn report is prepared sometime in Spring 2024.

## 7. Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	As presented in this document.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	The schools' forums (England) regulations 2012 govern the constitution and conduct of meetings of the forum. The schools finance (England) regulations 2012 determine those matters on which the local authority must or may consult the schools' forum and those in respect of which the schools' forum can make decisions. These regulations make provision for the financial arrangements of local authorities in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of prescribed Early Years provision in England.
<b>Risk:</b>	None
<b>Equality:</b>	None
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	None
<b>Social Value:</b>	None
<b>Climate Change:</b>	None
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	None

## 8. Appendices

None

## 9. Background Papers

None.

