DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8

Rep 722

SCHOOLS FORUM

14 December 2017

Report of the Strategic Director for Children’s Services

Central School Services Block (CSSB)

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Schools Forum approval to the Central School Services Block allocations for 2018-19.

1. Information and Analysis

The Central School Services Block (CSSB) will be introduced in 2018-19 to fund local authorities for the statutory duties that they hold for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:

* funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the former Education Services Grant (ESG) – see Appendix 1; and
* funding for ongoing central functions and historic commitments previously held within the Schools Block.

Where local authorities hold duties in relation to all schools (as set out in Schedule 2, Parts 1 to 5 of the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2017), all schools must be treated on an equivalent basis.

The baseline central services schools block for Derbyshire for 2017-18 is £4.429m and covers the items in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Existing central funding (currently within the Schools Block)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item | £m | Note |
| Ongoing responsibilities |  |  |
| Admissions | 0.519 | Approved S Forum 9/1/17 |
| Schools Forum | 0.040 | As above |
| Former ESG Retained duties | 1.572 | As above |
| Licences | 0.561 | Forum approval not req’d |
| Sub total – ongoing commitments | 2.692 |  |
|  |  |  |
| Historic commitments |  |  |
| Contribution to combined budgets | 1.737 | Approved S Forum 9/1/17 |
| Sub-total – historic commitments | 1.737 |  |
| Total Central Services Schools Block | 4.429 |  |

The National CSSB Formula will fund LAs’ ongoing responsibilities on the basis of a new formula. LAs will receive £28.84 per pupil plus £11.99 per Ever 6 free school meal. The number of pupils and free meals will include schools and academies as the LAs’ responsibilities cover both sectors. A cash sum will be added to the above to cover LAs’ historic commitments. The NFF for Derbyshire, fully applied, would be as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Pupil led | Ever 6 led | Total |
| NFF multiplier before ACA | £28.836 | £11.993 | - |
| Derbyshire count | 96,464.00 | 22.901.60 | - |
|  |  |  |  |
| Total ongoing responsibilities | £2,781,694 | £274,663 | £3,056,357 |
| Historic commitments |  |  | £1,737,000 |
| Total Central School Services Block |  |  | £4,793,357 |
| Overall increase |  |  | £364,357 |

The fact that Derbyshire will gain under the proposed NFF indicates that our current level of central spend is below the average of other LAs. Increases in CSSB per pupil allocations for LAs’ existing responsibilities are capped at 2.5% for 2018-19. The 2018-19 CSSB budget will therefore be £4.497m plus or minus the impact of changes in pupil numbers. An overall increase of circa £0.070m on 2017-18 levels is expected.

There is one further technical change as LAs will be required to write to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance. This will be a new addition to CSSB, to be included in 2018 to 2019 regulations. In terms of spending proposals, the Authority requests that the Schools Forum:

* increase the on-going responsibility allocations, excluding licences, in Table 1 by 1%;
* further increase the admissions figure on the basis of any extra funding in the CSSB allocations for the LA’s work with year 9 students – likely to be in the range £2k-£5k;
* increase the licences budget to the figure notified by the DfE; and
* retain the contribution to combined services budget at the current level.

The cost of the LA’s proposals is £0.021m, excluding any increase in respect of licences and the changes for Year 9 pupils. It is proposed that the balance of the Central School Services Block be retained as uncommitted at this stage. If the actual CSSB settlement for 2018-19 has been published by the time of the meeting an oral update will be presented on its impact.

Final decisions on the level of central spend are a matter for the Schools Forum.

1. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors have been considered: social value; prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, finance, human resources, legal & human rights, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

1. Background Papers

Held in Children’s Services Finance.

1. Strategic Director’s Recommendation

That the Schools Forum agree to the CSSB allocations set out in the report.

**JANE PARFREMENT**

**Strategic Director for Children’s Services**

**Frmr ESG-funded responsibilities LAs hold for all schools and academies Appendix 1**

|  |
| --- |
| **Statutory and regulatory duties**  Director of children’s services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)  Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)  Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)  Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools’ budget shares (Sch 2, 15c)  Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d)  Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority’s chief finance officer’s responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)  Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)  Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public/voluntary bodies (Sch 2, 15f)  Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)  Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21) |
| **Education welfare**  Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Sch 2, 20)  School attendance (Sch 2, 16)  Responsibilities regarding the employment of children (Sch 2, 18) |
| **Asset management**  Management of the LA’s capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Sch 2, 14a)  General landlord duties for all buildings owned by the local authority, including those leased to academies (Sch 2, 14b) |
| **Central support services**  No functions |
| **Premature retirement and redundancy**  No functions |
| **Monitoring national curriculum assessment**  No functions |
| **Therapies**  No functions |
| **Other ongoing duties**  Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Sch 2, 8) – this does not require schools forum approval  Admissions (Sch 2, 9)  Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils (Sch 2, 10)  Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Sch 2, 11)  Servicing of schools forums (Sch 2, 12)  Back-pay for equal pay claims (Sch 2, 13)  Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as UTCs and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (new addition to CSSB, to be included in 2018-19 regulations).[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| **Historic commitments**  Capital expenditure funded from revenue (Sch 2, 1)  Prudential borrowing costs (Sch 2, 2(a))  Termination of employment costs (Sch 2, 2(b))  Contribution to combined budgets (Sch 2, 2(c)) |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)