

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

15 March 2018

Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services

**CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK 2018-19
(YOUNG PEOPLE)**

1. **Purpose of the Report** - To ask Cabinet to confirm the allocations to be funded from the Central Schools Services Block for 2018-19.

2. **Information and Analysis** - The 2018-19 revenue settlement for schools was published on 19 December 2017 and included the new Central Schools Services Block (CSSB). Under the Government's school funding reforms, this new block was created 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 CSSB for Derbyshire for 2017-18 is £4.429m and covers the items in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – 2017-18 Baseline central funding (currently within the Schools Block)

Item	£m
<u>Ongoing responsibilities</u>	
Admissions Service	0.519
Cost of Schools Forum	0.040
Former ESG Retained duties	1.572
Licences	0.561
Sub-total – ongoing commitments	2.692
<u>Historic commitments</u>	
Contribution to combined budgets	1.737
Sub-total – historic commitments	1.737
Total Central Services Schools Block	4.429

Derbyshire will gain under the CSSB formula as our current level of central spend is below the average of other LAs; in the long-term, a gain of around £0.364m is expected. However, gains in LAs' CSSB ongoing responsibilities funding are capped at 2.5% for 2018-19. The 2018-19 CSSB budget for Derbyshire has therefore been calculated as follows.

Table 2 – Central School Services Block 2018-19

Baseline ongoing responsibilities – per Table 1	£2,692,000
October 2016 pupil count	96,464
Baseline ongoing responsibilities per pupil	£27.92
Add 2.5% uplift	£0.69
2018-19 ongoing responsibilities funding per pupil	£28.61
October 2017 pupil count	97,138
2018-19 CSSB ongoing responsibilities funding	£2,779,000
Historic commitments (as 2017-18)	£1,737,000
2018-19 CSSB funding	£4,516,000

The overall CSSB allocation represents an overall increase of £0.087m (1.96%) compared with 2017-18. With the exception of the expenditure on licences, decisions on the allocation of the Central School Services Block are a matter for School Forums. The proposed budgets were presented to the Forum on 9th January 2018 for consideration.

Table 3 – Proposed CSSB budgets 2018-19

	2017-18	2018-19	
Item	£m	£m	
<u>Ongoing responsibilities</u>			
Admissions Service	0.519	0.528	
Cost of Schools Forum	0.040	0.041	
Former ESG Retained duties	1.572	1.588	
Licences	0.561	0.578	Fig per DfE
Sub-total – ongoing commitments	2.692	2.735	
Historic commitments	1.737	1.737	
Total current/proposed allocations	4.429	4.472	
Available funding	4.429	4.516	
Unallocated funding	-	0.044	

Schools Forum agreed the above allocations and to leave the balance of the block uncommitted for 2018-19.

3. **Other Considerations** - In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, and environmental, health, social value, human rights, human resources, property and transport considerations.
4. **Background Papers** - Files held within Children's Services Finance.
5. **Key Decision** - Yes
6. **Call-in** - Is it required that the call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report? No
7. **Officer's Recommendations** That Cabinet:
 - (i) Notes the Central Schools Services Block settlement for 2018-19;
 - (ii) Notes the decisions of the Schools Forum on 9th January 2018; and
 - (iii) Confirms the Central Schools Services Block budgets for 2018-19 as set out in section 2 of the report.

Jane Parfremment
Strategic Director for Children's Services

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

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))