

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**SCHOOLS FORUM****17th October 2013****Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults****Central Schools and Early Years Block allocations 2014-15****1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek the Schools Forum's approval for the Authority to retain funding centrally within the Schools and Early Years Blocks for 2014-15.

2. Information and Analysis

The national funding framework requires that nearly all the activities and budgets funded from the Schools Block are delegated to schools. However, there is provision for the Schools Forum to continue to allow a limited amount of funding to be retained centrally for specific defined functions. Similarly, the level of funding retained centrally in respect of the Early Years Block is also a matter for Schools Forum.

The current retained items within these blocks are set out in Appendices 1 and 2 with a brief description of the services funded and the amount retained.

The central Schools Block items are defined by regulation each year in the School and Early Years (England) Funding Regulations. The draft regulations for 2014-15 confirm that the retained list is in line with 2013-14, the one major change being that funding for the Carbon Reduction Commitment will no longer be required as schools and academies will be taken out of the framework next year. This is unlikely to represent a saving as LAs' DSG allocations will be reduced to reflect the change.

The draft regulations also confirm that the amount to be retained centrally is capped at the cash level of the previous funding period i.e. 2013-14.

The Forum's agreement to continue to retain the funding set out in Appendices 1 and 2 for 2014-15 is sought.

3. Other Considerations

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

4. Background Papers

DfE Publication: School and early years finance – summary of proposed changes to regulations and conditions of grant for 2014-15.

5. Strategic Director's Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

- (i) Note the Report; and
- (ii) Approve the retention of funding for 2014-15 as set out in Appendices 1 and 2.

IAN THOMAS
Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

	Service	£k	Description of services
1	Admissions	468	Provision of service to allocate places at schools and academies in accordance with national requirements
2	Schools Forum	28	Support for costs of Schools Forum including direct costs and officer time
3	Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,721	This funds a variety of initiatives including support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) raising standards in schools e.g. Journey to Excellence; (ii) vulnerable students; (iii) ad hoc initiatives e.g. reading recovery, elective home education; (iv) schools causing concern; (v) Schools, via the MAT teams, for families and children with behaviour, attendance and other needs.
4	Pupil Growth Fund	2,310	Additional support to infant and primary schools to assist them in meeting the Key Stage 1 class size requirements.
6	Licences	188	This is to fund the cost of Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) and the Music Publishers Association (MPA) licences for all schools and academies as required by the DfE
7	SEN Transport	80	This is funding towards the costs of SEN placements which, although more cost effective overall, result in higher Council funded transport costs. The funding is effectively a contribution towards the extra costs incurred by the Council.
	Total	5,795	

Summary of retained Early Years functionsAppendix 2

	Service	£k	Description of services
1	Early Years Improvement Service	1,356	Provides support and quality review of PVI settings
2	Pre School Educational Psychology service	573	Assessment of EY children
3	Behaviour Support Service	15	Provision of services to Nursery Schools
4	Staffing costs (Maternity/TU/Public Duties)	14	Backfill of staff absent for these reasons
5	Catering	55	Estimated cost of provision of service to Nursery Schools
6	Broadband subsidy	25	Nursery Schools share of central subsidy
7	CRB checks	3	Estimated costs based on pupil numbers
8	Sports	2	Share of Sports Service costs
9	Capital Maintenance	30	Estimated share based on pupil numbers
10	Contingency	56	Retained in case of nursery schools need
11	Licensing	2	Estimated cost for Nursery Schools
12	Insurance	10	Notional share of corporate premiums
	Total	2,141	