

Schools Management Forum

Report of: Dianne Nielsen

Subject: 2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – Central School Services Block

Date: 13th January 2021

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide a breakdown of services potentially to be provided from the Central Schools Services Block retained budget.

2.0 DSG Central Services Block

- 2.1 The total of the Central Services Block for 2021/22 as per the settlement is £1,062,737. As advised in my November report, this now includes Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution (TPECG) funding for centrally employed teachers. This element of the funding is £57.1k. If you exclude the TPECG in 2021-22 the budget has reduced by £46.8k from 2020/21. The majority of this reduction is a 20% reduction in the historical commitments element of the CSSB funding. DfE have indicated that this element will be reduced over the coming years. I would expect that this element will reduce by 20% year on year.
- 2.2 The services that are proposed to be funded from the Central Services Block in 2021/22 are as follows:

	£
Copyright Licenses for Schools	110,077
Admissions	151,540
Education Admin	26,580
Speech & Language Contract	234,574
Contribution to Local Authority Designated Officer	15,000
Schools Forum	5,200
SEN Home to School Transport	40,000
Statutory Services for all Schools (previously funded by ESG)	381,477
Central Services Overheads to support the above	64,216
TPEC for Centrally Employed Teachers	57,075
TOTAL	1,085,740
TOTAL DSG CSSB Grant	1,062,737
Shortfall in Funding	-23,033

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- 2.3 The above commitments has put a pressure on the budget of £23k.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the DSG High Needs block will support the shortfall of £23k to support the continuation of the Speech & Language contract for one year.
- 2.5 The DfE expect a reduction of the historical commitments of which the Speech & Language contract is one. The contract and the impact of this support is to be reviewed and a report will follow later in the year.

3.0 Centrally Retained Budgets

- 3.1 The following paragraphs explain in a bit more detail the services being provided/paid for in each case.
- 3.2 The Copyright Licences budget pays for Copyright charges that the Council pay on behalf of all Middlesbrough Schools. These amounts are deducted at source from the Council's DSG allocation received from the DfE.
- 3.3 The Admissions service consists of 5 members of staff and also a budget for Admissions appeals which are ran by Hartlepool Council on our behalf.
- 3.4 The Speech & Language budget pays for the Speech & Language SLA ran by South Tees CCG on behalf of all Middlesbrough Schools.
- 3.5 Contribution to Local Authority Designated Officer – This is a statutory post and provides safeguarding support and advice to all Middlesbrough Schools.
- 3.6 Schools forum – This budget pays for the room hire and administration costs of Schools forum meetings only. All other costs for officer support are included in other areas below.
- 3.7 SEN Home to School Transport – This is a contribution to the Home to School Transport service which is provided by the Council.
- 3.8 Statutory Services for all Schools – This budget covers the statutory services/posts that the LA have to administer on behalf Schools. These include the Education Welfare and Asset Management services. In addition to this the budget also includes a contribution towards the Executive Director and Management costs of the service.
- 3.9 The central overheads budget pays for the elements of support provided to the Education Department by finance, procurement, property, valuations, payroll, HR ICT, cleaning and building maintenance.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 SMF members to note the decrease in CSSB budget.
- 4.2 SMF member to note the introduction of the TPECG for centrally employed teachers to be funded from the grant.

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- 4.3 SMF member to note the one off funding in 2021-22 from DSG High Needs to support the continuation of the Speech and Language contract in 2021-22.
- 4.4 SMF members to note the review of the speech and language contract.
- 4.5 SMF agree the services to be funded from Central Services Schools Block.