

Schools Forum – 5 December 2023

| | |
|--|---|
| Title of paper: | Central Expenditure Budget 2024/25 – Historic Commitments |
| Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s): | Catherine Underwood - People Ross Brown - Finance and Resources |
| Report author(s) and contact details: | Julia Holmes, Senior Commercial Business Partner julia.holmes@nottinghamcity.gov.uk |
| Other colleagues who have provided input: | Janine Walker, Head of SEND & vulnerable pupils Jasmin Howell, Virtual School Head Ann Barrett, Team Leader Legal Services Carol McCrone, Senior HR Consultant (Schools) |
| Summary | |
| <p>Funding for some central services provided by the Local Authority (LA) to schools are funded through the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The funding given through the CSSB is split into two streams, funding for historic commitments and for ongoing commitments.</p> <p>This report requests approval of the historic commitments within the CSSB for the financial year 2024/25.</p> <p>The central expenditure for “Ongoing Commitments” proposals are included in a separate report to Schools Forum (SF) on 5 December 2023. Approval is also being sought for the allocation of funding for SEN Transport in the financial year 2024/25. This is funded from the High Needs Block but is also classed by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as a historic commitment, this is the reason why it has also been included in this report.</p> <p>The supporting documentation is included in Appendices A to C.</p> | |
| Recommendation(s): | |
| 1 | To approve the historic commitments set out in Table 4 totalling £2.859m for the financial year 2024/25, noting the additional historical detail set out in Appendices A to C. |

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Under the Schools & Early Years Financial Regulations 2023 and the Schools Operational Guide issued on 11 October 2023, SF approval is required for individual central expenditure items in the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB).
- 1.2 On 17 July 2023 the ESFA released the illustrative funding allocations for the financial year 2024/25.

In keeping with the Department of Education’s (DfE) commitment to reduce historic commitment funding, Nottingham City’s historic commitments funding have been cut by a further 20% in 2024/25 which also happened in each of the financial years between 2020/21 to 2023/24. **Table 1** shows the total funding reduction to date is £3.740m.

| TABLE 1: MOVEMENT IN HISTORICAL COMMITMENTS FUNDING | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Financial Year | Funding allocated to LA £m | Movement in funding year on year £m |
| 2019/20 | £5.571 | |
| 2020/21 | £4.539 | -£1.060 |
| 2021/22 | £3.631 | -£0.907 |
| 2022/23 | £2.905 | -£0.727 |
| 2023/24 | £2.324 | -£0.581 |
| 2024/25 | £1.859 | -£0.465 |
| TOTAL REDUCTION TO DATE | | -£3.740 |

The ESFA have stated that this funding will be cut year on year until LA's only have the value of the termination of employment and prudential borrowing remaining budgets, for those LA's who have commitments for these costs.

- 1.3 As a consequence of this reduction in funding the LA has reviewed the historical commitments in the CSSB and adjusted the amounts sought to be approved by Schools Forum (SF). The attached appendices A and B provide a financial overview of the service, how the funding is allocated to the service and areas of delivery.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 **Table 2** shows the movement in funding allocations within the new values issued. The changes have been based on:

- 'keeping it simple' approach from the LA's accounting perspective in relation to the CSSB contributions;
- Ensuring officer time is not allocated over a number of areas and
- Reflects new business models

| Table 2: Comparison of 2023/24 historic commitments to proposed commitments for 2024/25 | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | Budget 2023/24 £m | Budget 2024/25 £m | Variance £m |
| Historic commitments in the CSSB | | | |
| Integrated placements | 0.247 | - | -0.247 |
| Virtual School – Appendix A | 0.241 | 0.196 | -0.045 |
| Termination of employment costs – costs exceed budget but unable to increase in accordance with guidance | 1.609 | 1.609 | - |
| Capital expenditure in revenue accounts | 0.173 | - | -0.173 |
| Prudential borrowing | 0.054 | 0.054 | - |
| Historic commitments in the CSSB Total | 2.324 | 1.859 | -0.465 |
| Historic commitments in the High Needs Block | | | |
| SEN Transport – Appendix B | 1.000 | 1.000 | - |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Total Historic Commitments | 3.324 | 2.859 | -0.465 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|

In order to be able to set a balanced budget within the historic commitments funding envelope in 2024/25 the LA has removed the integrated placements contribution of £0.247m, and the capital expenditure in revenue accounts £0.173m. These costs will not disappear and this shortfall in funding presents a budget pressure for the LA to mitigate.

The Virtual School has also had its funding reduced by 19% from £0.241m to £0.196m. This shortfall is to be met by using the Pupil Premium Plus Grant to cover the costs that can legitimately be charged to the grant.

The termination of employment costs remain the same in 2024/25 at £1.609m along with the prudential borrowing payments which remain £0.054m. The prudential borrowing funding requirement will remain the same each financial year until 2052/53 when the repayments will end.

In the financial year 2024/25 the Local Authority will be applying to the ESFA to ensure that the funding cut for historic commitments in 2025/26 does not take the funding for historic commitments below the budget for the termination of employment costs and prudential borrowing of £1.663m.

2.2 The supporting information in relation to the above budgets in **Table 2** are shown in **appendices A to C**.

3. **Other options considered in making recommendations**

3.1 No other options are available as the recommendations align to the financial regulations issued by the DfE in relation to the allocation of DSG.

4. **Outcomes/deliverables**

4.1 To obtain an agreed 2024/25 Schools Budget, enabling updated schools budgets to be issued to schools within the statutory deadline of the 28 February 2024.

5. **Consideration of Risk**

5.1 The forecast reduction in historical commitments has been built into the LA's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). If the DfE were to increase the cuts placed on LA's who are in receipt of historical commitments funding from the current 20%, the MTFP would need to be updated to reflect this change. The additional budget pressure would remain with the LA.

6. **Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)**

6.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the Schools and Early Years (England) Financial Regulations 2023 which came into force on 14 February 2023, and the Schools operational guide 2024 to 2025 – 11 October 2023 issued by the ESFA and forms part of the DSG budget.

6.2 The Central School Services Block (CSSB) is made up of two categories of funding:

- Historic commitments and
- Ongoing commitments

Noted in **Table 3** are the budgets which are funded from the CSSB.

| Table 3 : Central Schools Services Block Budgets | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Commitment | Classification | 2024/25 £m |
| CERA | Historic commitment | - |
| Prudential borrowing | Historic commitment | 0.054 |
| Termination of employment costs | Historic commitment | 1.609 |
| Contribution to combined budgets | Historic commitment | 0.196 |
| Admissions | Ongoing commitment | |
| Copyright licences | Ongoing commitment | |
| Schools Forum | Ongoing commitment | |
| Retained Duties (Former ESG) | Ongoing commitment | |

- 6.3 The items seeking approval in this report are for the historic commitments in the financial year 2024/25. **Table 3** summaries the historic commitments in the CSSB and these total £1.859m. In addition, the SEN Transport budget of £1m is also classed as a historic commitment but this has to be funded from the High Needs Block. As this budget is also classed as a historic commitment it also requires Schools Forums approval. As per **recommendation 1** of this report the Authority is seeking approval of £2.859m for historical commitments in the financial year 2024/25. The detail supporting the values are shown in **Table 4**.

TABLE 4: CENTRAL EXPENDITURE - APPROVALS REQUIRED

| Service Description | 2024/25 £m | Narrative |
|--|---------------|--|
| HISTORIC COMMITMENTS – CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK | | |
| 1. Contribution to combined budgets | 0.196 | <p>Family support No longer applicable</p> <hr/> <p>Integrated placements No longer applicable</p> <hr/> <p>Safeguarding Training No longer applicable</p> <hr/> <p>£0.196m Virtual School See Appendix A</p> |
| 2. Termination of Employment Costs | 1.609 | <p>This budget is used to pay for ongoing pension and redundancy from historic restructures pre 1st April 2013.</p> <p>2023/24 commitments are estimated at c.£1.927m. It is anticipated that these costs will reduce over time.</p> <p>Detailed information on the termination of employment costs cannot be included due to data protection confidentiality.</p> |

| 3. Prudential Borrowing | 0.054 | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scheme</th> <th>Loan Value £m</th> <th>2019/20 £m</th> <th>2020/21 £m</th> <th>2021/22 £m</th> <th>2022/23 £m</th> <th>2023/24 to 2052/53 £m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Education BSF</td> <td>0.400</td> <td>0.028</td> <td>0.027</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSF 06/07</td> <td>1.149</td> <td>0.086</td> <td>0.082</td> <td>0.078</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSF Academies</td> <td>0.026</td> <td>0.002</td> <td>0.002</td> <td>0.002</td> <td>0.002</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southwark Primary</td> <td>0.294</td> <td>0.023</td> <td>0.022</td> <td>0.021</td> <td>0.020</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSF - In lieu of Revenue Costs Transfer</td> <td>0.900</td> <td>0.069</td> <td>0.067</td> <td>0.064</td> <td>0.061</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emanuel School</td> <td>0.265</td> <td>0.020</td> <td>0.020</td> <td>0.019</td> <td>0.018</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nottingham Academy</td> <td>1.078</td> <td>0.054</td> <td>0.054</td> <td>0.054</td> <td>0.054</td> <td>0.054</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>4.113</td> <td>0.283</td> <td>0.274</td> <td>0.238</td> <td>0.155</td> <td>0.054</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Scheme | Loan Value £m | 2019/20 £m | 2020/21 £m | 2021/22 £m | 2022/23 £m | 2023/24 to 2052/53 £m | Education BSF | 0.400 | 0.028 | 0.027 | - | - | - | BSF 06/07 | 1.149 | 0.086 | 0.082 | 0.078 | - | - | BSF Academies | 0.026 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.002 | - | Southwark Primary | 0.294 | 0.023 | 0.022 | 0.021 | 0.020 | - | BSF - In lieu of Revenue Costs Transfer | 0.900 | 0.069 | 0.067 | 0.064 | 0.061 | - | Emanuel School | 0.265 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.019 | 0.018 | - | Nottingham Academy | 1.078 | 0.054 | 0.054 | 0.054 | 0.054 | 0.054 | TOTAL | 4.113 | 0.283 | 0.274 | 0.238 | 0.155 | 0.054 |
|--|--------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---------------|-------|-------|-------|---|---|---|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|---|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Scheme | Loan Value £m | 2019/20 £m | 2020/21 £m | 2021/22 £m | 2022/23 £m | 2023/24 to 2052/53 £m | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Education BSF | 0.400 | 0.028 | 0.027 | - | - | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | BSF 06/07 | 1.149 | 0.086 | 0.082 | 0.078 | - | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | BSF Academies | 0.026 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.002 | 0.002 | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Southwark Primary | 0.294 | 0.023 | 0.022 | 0.021 | 0.020 | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | BSF - In lieu of Revenue Costs Transfer | 0.900 | 0.069 | 0.067 | 0.064 | 0.061 | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Emanuel School | 0.265 | 0.020 | 0.020 | 0.019 | 0.018 | - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Nottingham Academy | 1.078 | 0.054 | 0.054 | 0.054 | 0.054 | 0.054 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 4.113 | 0.283 | 0.274 | 0.238 | 0.155 | 0.054 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>This funding is used to meet the borrowing commitments around the initial set up costs of the Building Schools For the Future programme and Nottingham Academy. These values are fixed and cannot be amended.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Capital Expenditure from Revenue Accounts | - | <p>This expenditure supports Private Finance Initiative payments (fixed element) that have to be allocated and capital improvements ensuring that all buildings continue to meet the legal requirements.</p> <p>No longer applicable</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SUB-TOTAL | 1.859 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HISTORIC COMMITMENTS – HIGH NEEDS BLOCK | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. SEN Transport | 1.000 | SEN transport where the Schools Forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget (this is treated as part of the high needs block but requires Schools Forum approval as a historic commitment. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| SUB-TOTAL | 1.000 | |
| GRAND TOTAL FOR HISTORIC COMMITMENTS | 2.859 | |

- 6.4 **Appendix C** shows the values of these items compared to previous years' budgets and actuals.
- 6.5 Any items not approved through this report will not necessarily create a full year saving in 2024/25 due to the implementation time required to initiate a service reduction (consultation/approval/notice etc).

Julia Holmes
Senior Commercial Business Partner
3 November 2023

7. **Legal colleague comments**

- 7.1 The current law in force in this area is the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023. These Regulations make provision for local authorities' financial arrangements in relation to the funding of maintained schools and providers of funded early years provision in England, for the financial year 2023-2024 and the Council must ensure that it complies with its obligations in accordance with these Regulations. Financial advice in that respect is given above.
- 7.2 The Forum has decision making powers in relation to (amongst other things,) agreeing centrally retained budgets and funding for central early years expenditure and therefore the Recommendations appear to be within the Forum's powers decision making powers.

Ann Barrett, Team Leader Legal Services - 21 November 2023.

8. **Other relevant comments**

There are no direct Human Resources implications as part of this report.

However, if recommendations are not approved and there is an impact or shortfall for the local authority services delivered to schools, these will need to be fully scoped and understood from a resources perspective before a formal consultation process is instigated.

After scoping and if reductions are required resulting in impacts to the workforce, a genuine and meaningful consultation process should commence with Trade Unions and affected staff, with the correct policies and procedures being adhered to, with HR support provided. It is to be noted that there are employment termination costs factored into this report.

Carol McCrone, Senior HR Consultant (Schools) – 20 November 2023

9. **Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

9.1 N/A

10. **Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

10.1 N/A

11. **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

11.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No
An EIA is not required because:
(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Yes
Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No
A DPIA is not required because:
(Please explain why a DPIA is not necessary)

Yes
Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 Has the Carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No
A DPIA is not required because:
(Please explain why a DPIA is not necessary)

Yes
Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1

15. Published documents referred to in this report

15.1 ESFA – Schools operational guide October 2023

15.2 DfE Schools and Early Years Financial Regulations 2023

Report to Schools Forum
Nottingham City Virtual School
November 2023

1. **Context**

- 1.1. The Children and Families Act 2014 required all local authorities in England to appoint at least one person for the purpose of discharging the local authority's duty to promote the educational achievement of its looked after children, wherever they live or are educated. That person, the Virtual School Head (VSH) must be an officer employed by the authority or another local authority in England.
- 1.2. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 expands the remit of VSHs to include the promotion of educational achievement of adopted children in England and children subject to Special Guardianship Orders.
- 1.3. From September 2021 all Virtual School Heads received additional duties as a strategic leader for children who currently and previously had a social worker. This new duty is currently non-statutory and is in addition to the existing statutory duties of Virtual School Heads.

2. **Nottingham City Virtual School**

- 2.1. The Nottingham City Virtual School staffing consists of:

Virtual School Head- responsible and accountable for providing leadership, management and development for all aspects of the Virtual School. Ensuring fulfilment of the local authority's statutory duties regarding the education of children in care and previously looked after children.

Virtual School Service Manager- this is a new role currently being filled on a temporary acting up basis by the Virtual School Team Manager. This temporary Service Manager role was put in place to support a planned restructure of the Virtual School Team; creating additional leadership capacity to meet the extended duties of Virtual School Heads.

Virtual School Team Manager- this position is currently vacant as the current Team Manager is acting up as Virtual School Service Manager, which is part of a planned restructure to the Virtual School team. We aim to recruit to the Team Manager vacancy on a fixed term contract in the new year. This addition to the Virtual School leadership

structure will enable and support the Virtual School Head with their extended and additional duties in respect to previously looked after children and children with a social worker.

Education Support Officers x 5.5 fte equivalent- provide advice, support and training to key stakeholders in respect to the education of children care and previously looked after children. They have an allocation of children in care cases and are responsible for monitoring and tracking their educational outcomes. Education Support Officers attend and contribute to PEP meetings, re-integration meetings and exclusion meetings in respect to children in care.

Business Support administrators x2- responsible for all administrative tasks relating to the Virtual School, including maintenance of the virtual school information management systems and support with monitoring and reporting on attendance and attainment information and Personal Education Plans.

Data support officer- responsible for developing and maintaining the Virtual School's information management systems, as well as tracking and reporting on attendance, achievement and progress of the authority's children in care.

3. **DSG income and expenditure 2022-23:**

| Virtual School projected income and expenditure 2022-23 | | | | |
|---|-------|--------|---------------|---|
| Detail | £m | £m | £m | Description |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | |
| DSG Income | | -0.301 | | |
| PLAC Grant | | -0.049 | | Government grant for duties associated with previously looked after children |
| PLAC Grant 2021/22 Carry Forward | | -0.049 | | |
| PPP Contribution | | -0.327 | | Contribution from PPP grant towards costs of tuition for children and VS staffing |
| Extension of duties contribution | | -0.015 | | Contribution towards staffing |
| School Led tutoring Grant | | -0.023 | | |
| Total Income | | | -0.764 | |
| Staff costs | | | 0.615 | |
| Non-pay costs | | | | |
| Staff Travel, recruitment expenses, CPD and Conferences | 0.001 | | | |
| Office equipment, mobile phone, stationery and IT. | 0.002 | | | |
| Children intervention funding | | 0.090 | | |
| Total non-pay costs | | | 0.093 | |
| Total expenditure | | | 0.708 | |
| Net Position | | | -0.056 | Reduced draw down of the DSG grant by this amount. |

4. **DSG Projected income and expenditure 2023-24:**

| Virtual School projected income and expenditure 2023-24 | | | | |
|---|-------|--------|---------------|--|
| Detail | £m | £m | £m | Description |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | |
| DSG Income | | -0.241 | | A reduction of 20% from the previous financial year |
| PLAC Grant | | -0.049 | | |
| PPP Contribution | | -0.364 | | An increase in PPP contribution to mitigate the reduction in DSG |
| SLTG | | -0.010 | | |
| Total Income | | | -0.664 | |
| Staff costs | | | 0.560 | Lower this year due to Team Manager vacancy. |
| Non-pay costs | | | | |
| Staff Travel, recruitment expenses, CPD and Conferences | 0.005 | | | |
| Office equipment, mobile phone, stationary and IT. | 0.002 | | | |
| Children intervention funding | | 0.065 | | |
| Loxley House Rent | | 0.032 | | |
| Total non-pay costs | | | 0.104 | |
| Total expenditure | | | 0.664 | |
| Net Position | | | -0.000 | |

5. **DSG Projected income and expenditure 2024-25:**

| Virtual School projected income and expenditure 2024-25 | | | | |
|---|-------|--------|---------------|---|
| Detail | £m | £m | £m | Description |
| <u>Income</u> | | | | |
| DSG Income | | -0.196 | | |
| PPP Contribution | | -0.475 | | An increase in PPP contribution to mitigate the reduction in DSG |
| Total Income | | | -0.671 | |
| Staff costs | | | 0.613 | An increase as it includes recruitment to ESO and Team Manager post. |
| Non-pay costs | | | | |
| Staff Travel, recruitment expenses, CPD and Conferences | 0.002 | | | |
| Office equipment, mobile phone, stationary and IT. | 0.004 | | | Increased based on 2 additional staff. |
| Children intervention funding | | 0.020 | | Costs associated with children's intervention to also be funded from PPP- resulting in a reduction in PPG available to schools. |
| Loxley House Rent | | 0.032 | | |
| Total non-pay costs | | | 0.058 | |
| Total expenditure | | | 0.671 | |
| Net Position | | | 0.000 | |

6. Pupil Premium Plus Funding

- 6.1. The Virtual School receives an allocation of £2,530 per child looked after for at least one day, as recorded in the previous March children looked-after data return.
- 6.2. The Virtual School manage the Pupil Premium Plus through the ePEP portal; schools submit requests for funding each term at the same time as reviewing and updating the children's individual Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- 6.3. The table below provides detail of the Pupil Premium Plus expenditure in the **2022-23** financial year:

| 2022-23 financial year Pupil Premium Plus | Expenditure £m | Notes |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Termly PPP payments to schools | 0.624 | |
| Education provision including Alternative Provision | 0.061 | |
| Resources/support for children and young people | 0.047 | Books, equipment and transportation costs. |
| Laptops for pupils | 0.036 | Digital inclusion project and requests from C&YP. |
| Interventions for children and young people | 0.068 | Reward vouchers, mentoring, digital learning apps |
| Education Psychology | 0.005 | |
| Subscription | 0.001 | NAVSH |
| Welfare Call, SIMS | 0.069 | Systems and portals (ePEP) |
| Staff training | 0.013 | (Trauma, ESBA, ELSA and NASEN training, and Books) |
| Staff conferences | 0.002 | NAVSH |
| DSG contribution | 0.327 | |
| Expenditure Total | 1.253 | |
| PPP Income | -1.253 | |
| Net position | 0.000 | |

6.4. The table below provides forecasted expenditure of the Pupil Premium Plus budget for the current **2023-24** financial year:

| 2023-24 financial year Pupil Premium Plus | Planned Expenditure £m | Notes |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Termly PPP payments to schools (and Additional Funding Requests) | 0.658 | |
| Resources/provision and support for children/ young people | 0.083 | Tuition, transportation, equipment, resources. |
| Laptops for pupils | 0.042 | Digital inclusion project and requests from C&YP. |
| Interventions for children and young people | 0.049 | Reward vouchers, mentoring, digital learning |
| Education Psychology | 0.004 | |
| Subscription | 0.001 | NAVSH |
| Welfare Call, SIMS | 0.079 | Systems and portals (ePEP) |
| Staff training | 0.001 | |
| DSG contribution | 0.400 | |
| Expenditure Total | 1.316 | |
| PPP Income | -1.316 | |
| Net position | 0.000 | |

6.5. The table below provides forecasted expenditure of the Pupil Premium Plus budget in the **2024-25** financial year:

| 2024-25 financial year Pupil Premium Plus | Planned Expenditure £m | Notes |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Termly PPP payments to schools | 0.620 | A reduction of funding available to schools due to the reduction in DSG. |
| Resources/provision and support for children and young people | 0.070 | A reduction of funding available for tuition, transport, equipment etc due to reduced DSG. |
| Laptops for pupils | 0.036 | A reduction of funding available for laptops due to reduced DSG. |
| Interventions for children and young people | 0.031 | A reduction of funding available for interventions due to reduced DSG. |
| Education Psychology | 0.004 | |
| Subscription | 0.001 | NAVSH |
| Welfare Call, SIMS | 0.079 | Systems and portals (ePEP) |
| Staff training | 0.001 | |
| DSG contribution | 0.475 | An increase in contribution from PPPG due to the reduction in DSG |
| Expenditure Total | 1.316 | |
| PPP Income | -1.315 | |
| Net position | 0.000 | |

Home to school travel assistance for children and young people with SEND

Legislation

- S508B of the Act deals with the duty on local authorities to make such travel arrangements as they consider necessary to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children – children of compulsory school age (5-16) in an authority's area for whom free travel arrangements will be required
- The Council has a statutory duty under Section 10 of the Education and Skills Act to exercise its functions so as to promote the effective participation in education or training of persons belonging to its area with a view to ensuring that those persons participate in appropriate full-time education or training or an apprenticeship
- The Council also has a statutory duty to publish a Post 16 Transport Policy statement every year. This statement sets out the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the authority considers it necessary to make for facilitating the attendance of persons of sixth form age

Criteria for travel assistance

There are four main factors which may determine if children and young people are eligible for travel assistance:

- Statutory walking distance eligibility
- SEND or significant mobility difficulties eligibility
- Unsafe walking route eligibility
- Extended rights eligibility

In addition for exceptional cases the Council can consider a decision outside of it's policy e.g. child with disabilities whose family have fled domestic violence but child continues to attend the same school for a period of time.

Nottingham City Context

- From 2018 to 2022 there has been a rise of 28% in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans in place for city children from 1,021 to 1,311.
- This has not directly translated into the equivalent level of transport demand due to the robust application of policies in Nottingham and independent travel training.
- There has been a 10.85% increase in the number of young people eligible for travel assistance for the same 4 year period with around 530 young people with SEND receiving assistance.
- In comparison the 28 London boroughs have seen a 12% increase in demand for transport over a **3** year period and are projecting a 37% increase in costs over this period.
- There is an increasing pressure on requests for Bus Passes as a result of COVID and the continued Cost of Living Crisis, where a greater number of families are displaced or made homeless and remain in temporary accommodation for extended period of time.

Actions being taken to drive down costs

- From September 2023 revised routing has reduced the daily number from 125-123 routes. This has an equated saving of £504 per day, £95k per annum.
- The service continually reviews routes and co-ordinates individual transport arrangements to combine these to maximise route efficiencies.
- However, this is countered by the subsequent inflationary cost increases from the external transport providers of between 7-9% across all contracted routes.
- Service efficiencies seek to mitigate these cost increases where possible to prevent further budget pressure.
- The new Dynamic Procurement System (DPS) for council wide transport needs is planned to come online within the current financial year, which is intended to secure best value for all externally commissioned transport.
- The service is seeking agreement for direct allocation of project and data analysis resources to add capacity, in order to explore alternative operating models for commissioned transport including direct insourcing for financial efficiency.

Value for money

National benchmarking data demonstrates that Nottingham City spend the least on SEND home to school transport in comparison to its statistical neighbours (circa £3,000,000 per annum)

The provision of SEND home to school transport significantly drives down additional costs to the high needs block through ensuring we meet the needs of young people with SEND in the City and avoids placing in costly non maintained and Independent provision. Benchmarking 21/22 data in relation to our expenditure per head of the 2-19 population on non maintained/independent provision shows:

- Nottingham spend per head at £20 is the lowest of all statistical neighbours
- Compares to a national average of £119 per head
- Compares to an average for our 10 statistical neighbours of £81 per head
- Compares very favourably with geographical neighbours – Nottinghamshire £104, Derby £155, Leicester £93 and Leicestershire £166

Pressures and other cost drivers

- Shortage of drivers and escorts, and drivers leaving the sector to retrain as HGV drivers
- Companies not taking on additional work due to staffing capacity issues
- Significant increase in inflationary costs including staffing and fuel
- More young people are meeting Extended Rights Eligibility as a result of the financial impact on families since the pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis

APPENDIX C

Analysis of Historic Commitments 2021/22 to 2024/25

| HISTORIC COMMITMENTS | 2021/22 | | | | 2022/23 | | | | 2023/24 | | | | 2024/25 |
|---|--|------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| | Budget Approved by Schools Forum/Included in School Budget Report £m | Budget Latest £m | Outturn £m | Variance - Over/ (Under) budget £m | Budget Approved by Schools Forum/Included in School Budget Report £m | Budget Latest £m | Outturn £m | Variance - Over/ (Under) budget £m | Budget Approved by Schools Forum/Included in School Budget Report £m | Budget Latest £m | Forecast £m | Variance - Over/ (Under) budget £m | |
| Termination of Employment Costs | 1.609 | 1.609 | 1.609 | 0.000 | 1.609 | 1.609 | 1.609 | 0.000 | 1.609 | 1.609 | 1.609 | 0.000 | 1.609 |
| Capital Expenditure from Revenue Accounts | 0.173 | 0.173 | 0.173 | 0.000 | 0.173 | 0.173 | 0.173 | 0.000 | 0.173 | 0.173 | 0.173 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Prudential borrowing costs | 0.238 | 0.238 | 0.238 | 0.000 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 0.155 | 0.000 | 0.054 | 0.054 | 0.054 | 0.000 | 0.054 |
| Combined Services - Family Support | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Combined Services - Integrated placements | 1.127 | 1.127 | 1.127 | 0.000 | 0.667 | 0.667 | 0.667 | 0.000 | 0.247 | 0.247 | 0.247 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Combined Services - Serving Vulnerable Groups - Looked After Children | 0.376 | 0.376 | 0.376 | 0.000 | 0.301 | 0.301 | 0.246 | 0.055 | 0.241 | 0.241 | 0.241 | 0.000 | 0.196 |
| Combined Services - Safeguarding Training | 0.109 | 0.109 | 0.109 | 0.000 | | | | | | | | | |
| SEN Transport | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.000 | 1.000 |
| TOTAL | 4.632 | 4.632 | 4.632 | 0.000 | 3.905 | 3.905 | 3.850 | 0.055 | 3.324 | 3.905 | 3.905 | 0.000 | 2.859 |