

SCHOOLS FORUM - 19 JANUARY 2017

Title of paper:	CENTRAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2017/18
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Summary	
<p>This report presents the Council's proposed Central Expenditure budget for 2017/18 for those items not approved as part of the 8 December 2016 report.</p> <p>This report has been prepared in accordance with the financial regulations issued by the Department of Education (DfE) and forms part of the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) budget and the current Schools Budget has been prepared on the assumption that these items will be approved.</p>	
Exempt information	
<p>The appendices to the report are exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 because they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. It is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it could prejudice the procurement process and contract negotiations.</p>	
Recommendation(s):	
1	Approve the central expenditure associated with Combined Service - Family Support Appendix 1-5.
2	Approve the central expenditure associated with Combined Service – Integrated Placements Appendix 1-5.
3	Approve the central expenditure associated with Combined Service – Safeguarding Training Appendix 1-5.
4	Approve the central expenditure associated with Combined Service – Serving Vulnerable Children as set out in Appendix 6.
5	Note that the value of any items unapproved will be headroom and transferred to the Statutory School Reserve (SSR) and expenditure will only align to specific services as set out by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 On 8 December 2016 the Schools Central Expenditure budget for 2017/18 was presented to Schools Forum (SF). SF requested further information in relation to the 4 items in order to make a budget decision. These items are:
- a. Combined Service – Family Support.
 - b. Combined Service – Integrated placements.
 - c. Combined Service – Safeguarding Training
 - d. Combined Service – Servicing Vulnerable Children
- 1.2 SF agreed that due to the timing of these decisions and the need to submit central government returns the schools budget would be developed on the basis that these items would be approved therefore if any amount is not approved the value will be allocated as headroom to the Statutory Schools Reserve (SSR).
- 1.3 Within the Central Expenditure section of the Schools Block this funding would fall under the heading of a combined budget. As part of the baseline exercise carried out by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) this historic commitment was included by the Local Authority (LA) and this was approved by the EFA and included in the LA's baseline for 2017/18.
- 1.4.1 Local authorities (LA) will have the flexibility to move money from the central school services block into other blocks in 2018/19; further guidance on this will be sent out in 2018/19.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The purpose of this paper is to gain the appropriate central expenditure approvals in order to progress the budget process.

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 2017/18 Schools Budget, enabling updated schools budgets to be issued to schools within the statutory deadline of the 28 February 2017.

5 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 5.1 Any items not approved through this report will be allocated to the SSR however the full cost will not be a saving in 2017/18 due to the impact on services and the need to then consult with stakeholders and enter into a consultation process.

6 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 6.1 The current law in force in this area is the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015. However, these regulations apply for the financial year

starting 1 April 2016 only and are updated annually. The 2016 draft regulations have not yet been produced but on the basis that the substance of the regulations will not change, in relation to the matters which are the subject of this report, from the 2015 Regulations, this report seeks to address the requirements of those Regulations. However, it will be necessary to review these proposals once 2016 regulations have been produced

7 HR ISSUES

- 7.1 In the event that Schools Forum DO NOT support/agree the continuation of any funding arrangements as outlined in this budget report, there could be significant workforce implications that would need to be detailed in separate Chief Officer and Departmental Leadership Team reports. This could include potential employment / contractual obligations, costs and risks to the authority, taking into account appropriate timelines. Management need to consider potential exit payments of any affected post holders.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 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.

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 9.1 N/A

10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 10.1 DfE - Schools and Early Years Financial Regulations 2015.

- 10.2 DfE – Children’s & Families Act 2014