

2018-19 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Position

Schools Forum

Date: 18th July 2018

Author: Finance Manager Education

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To advise Schools Forum members of the latest projected 2018-19 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) retained budget position.
- 1.2 The Local Authority (LA) is required to report the position on the DSG budget to the Schools Forum throughout the year and at the financial year end. This report provides Forum Members with the projected year end position against the 2018-19 retained budgets based upon available information at the end of May 2018. In accordance with grant conditions, the year-end DSG balance (whether positive or negative) is ring-fenced and must be carried forward to the following year, and the Schools Forum must be consulted on how the surplus or deficit is managed.
- 1.3 The retained DSG budget is monitored in accordance with standard Swindon Borough Council ("SBC") budgetary control procedures and a report is submitted to the Education Leadership Team each month. Updates are also periodically provided to Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and the People's Services Leadership Team ("PSLT"). The council's budget monitoring timetable has recently been improved, the June monitoring forecast position was still being finalised as this report went to print.
- 1.4 Utilisation of the DSG contributes towards delivering the Council Vision Priority "Offer education opportunities that lead to the right skills and the right jobs in the right places".

2. Recommendations

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note that the latest projection on the 2018-19 retained budget is an out-turn position that will be **£0.333m** above budget.
- 2.2 Note that following the projected out-turn position the unallocated DSG balance will decrease to **£0.230m**.

3. Detail

Latest 2018-19 Retained Budget Position

- 3.1 As reported to Schools Forum on 17th January 2018 the overall value of the 2018-19 centrally retained DSG budget is £34.135m.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Anne Mackay, Finance Manager Education, Tel: 07795 256545, amackay@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.2 Attached at **Appendix A** is the report that was issued on 7th June to the Education Leadership Team on based on information at the end of May. This shows that the projected out-turn position is forecast to be £0.333m above the overall budget. The main reasons for the projected variances and commentaries on all high risk areas are provided in Appendix A.
- 3.3 The main changes are an increase in take up of 30 hour places by eligible 3 & 4 year olds, which also increase the DSG funding expected. The High Needs Top ups forecast has been increased due to additional places in Post 16 special provision and projections for pupils expected to be in provisions in September and costs related to the provision of educational and leadership support provided to a school. These additional costs are offset by a reduction in costs as fewer places have been taken up by 2 year olds.
- 3.4 At this stage the LA is expecting that, although there continues to be a risk associated with the projection, it is expected that the year-end position of £0.333m (0.38%) above budget will occur, which will reduce the existing unallocated DSG balance.
- 3.5 Following the projected forecast of £0.333m the value of the unallocated DSG balance is expected to be £0.230m.

Members of the Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note that the latest projection on the 2017-18 retained budget is £0.333m above budget**
- **Note that following the projected out-turn position the unallocated DSG balance will decrease to £0.230m**

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no proposals included within this report.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 Various financial implications are included in this report relating to management of the retained DSG budget

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no legal or human rights implications arising from this report.

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All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 This report does not make any recommendations that affect these areas.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 As there are no proposals in this report, a DIA has not been completed.

Risk Management

- 5.5 There are no specific risk management implications not highlighted in the body of the report.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A - Education Leadership Team budget monitoring report
- 8.2 Appendix B - DSG Budget analysis by expenditure type
- 8.3 Appendix C - DSG Profiled budget to date compared with forecast and actual expenditure to date