

2015-16 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Position

Schools Forum

Date: 7th July 2015

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 2015-16 DSG retained budget position.
- 1.2 The 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 2015-16 retained budgets based upon available information at the end of May 2015.
- 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 Board, Cabinet and the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note that the latest projection on the 2015-16 retained budget is an **overspend of £0.201m**

3. Detail

Latest 2015-16 Retained Budget Position

- 3.1 At the 17th March 2015 Schools Forum meeting the overall value of the 2015-16 centrally retained DSG budget was agreed at £29.1m. As reported to 7th October 2014 Schools Forum Swindon will receive £0.510m of EFA funding to effectively reimburse the DSG for place costs at Uplands Sixth Forum but as in 2014-15 this is not additional funding because a reduction to the DSG settlement is made by the EFA. Including the EFA funding, the overall value of the 2014/15 centrally retained DSG budget is £29.6m.
- 3.2 Attached at **Annex A** is the report to be issued to the Education Leadership Team, it was produced on 12th June 2015 based on information at the end of May. This shows that an overspend of £0.201m is projected across the overall budget. The main reasons for the projected variances and commentaries on all high risk areas are provided in Annex A.

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- 3.3 The LA Finance team has continued to work with Budget Managers to review the financial position to ensure robust forecasts are projected. In setting the retained budget officers included an element of contingency funding across some of the high risk budget areas to meet for any unexpected placements commissioned before 31st March 2016.
- 3.4 At this stage the LA is expecting that, although there continues to be a risk associated with the projection, an overspend of £0.201m (1.72%) will occur. An overspend will need to be funded from existing unallocated DSG balances. The financial position will continue to be monitored and the final 2015-16 outturn position (subject to external audit) will be represented to the July 2016 Schools Forum after closure of the LA's accounts.

Schools Forum is asked to:

- **note that the latest projection on the 2015-16 retained budget is an overspend of £0.201m**

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.

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

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

Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 Utilisation of the DSG has a direct link to two of the Council's five priorities – "Right skills, right jobs in the right place" and "Make the best use of Swindon's resources inside and outside the Council".

Diversity Impact Assessment

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

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Risk Management

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

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Resources (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 Annex A – Economy and Attainment Leadership Team budget monitoring reports