

2015-16 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Position

Schools Forum

Date: 21st December 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 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 2015-16 retained budgets based upon available information at the end of November 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 £0.858m**
- 2.2 Note that the unallocated DSG balance will reduce to **£0.240m**.

3. Detail

Latest 2015-16 Retained Budget Position

- 3.1 As reported to Schools Forum on 6th October 2015 the overall value of the 2015/16 centrally retained DSG budget is £29.5m.
- 3.2 Attached at **Appendix A** is the report that was issued to the Education Leadership Team on 16th September 2015 based on information at the end of August. This shows that an overspend of £0.858m is projected across 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 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

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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 £0.858m (0.53%) will occur, which will need to be funded from existing unallocated DSG balances. Following the projected overspend of £0.858m the value of the unallocated DSG balances will be £0.240m. 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.

Members of the Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note that the latest projection on the 2015-16 retained budget is an overspend of £0.858m.**
- **Note that the unallocated DSG balance will reduce to £0.240m.**

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 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 actual spend to date.