

2016-17 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget Position

Schools Forum

Date: 17th January 2017

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 2016-17 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 2016-17 retained budgets based upon available information at the end of November 2016.
- 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 Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 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 2016-17 retained budget is an out-turn position that will be **£0.353m below budget**.
- 2.2 Note that following the projected out-turn position the unallocated DSG balance will increase to **£0.562m**.

3. Detail

Latest 2016-17 Retained Budget Position

- 3.1 As reported to Schools Forum on 12th January 2016 the overall value of the 2016-17 centrally retained DSG budget is £30.695m.
- 3.2 Attached at **Appendix A** is the report that was issued to the Education Leadership Team on 14th December 2016 based on information at the end of November. This shows that the projected out-turn position is forecast to be

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Anne Mackay, Finance Manager Education 01793 465742, amackay@swindon.gov.uk.

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£0.353m below 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 continue 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 2017.
- 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 £0.353m (0.21%) below budget will occur, which will be added to existing unallocated DSG balances.
- 3.5 The previous position reported to forum in October was £0.407m below budget so there has been a decrease in the forecast of £0.054m. The main changes are an increase in High Needs Top ups following annual reviews in a special school, an increase in External Placement fees for new placements, offset by a reduction in the Post 16 High Need Provision.
- 3.6 Following the projected forecast of £0.353m the value of the unallocated DSG balances will be £0.562m. The financial position will continue to be monitored and the final 2016-17 outturn position (subject to external audit) will be represented to the July 2017 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 2016-17 retained budget is £0.353m below budget**
- **Note that following the projected out-turn position the unallocated DSG balance will increase to £0.562m**

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 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