

2013-14 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget position & Final Funding Announcement

Schools Forum

Date: 8th October 2013

Author:	Finance Manager – Education and Innovation
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To advise Schools Forum members of the latest projected 2013-14 DSG retained budget position and to report the updated 2013-14 DSG settlement position which was confirmed by the DfE in July.
- 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 2013-14 retained budgets based upon available information at the end of August 2013.
- 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 Economy and Attainment Leadership Team each month. Updates are also periodically provided to Corporate Board, Cabinet and the Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.4 The DSG grant conditions require each LA's Chief Financial Officer to report the final settlement figure to their Schools Forum following confirmation and to certify to the Department for Education (DfE) that this has been done by 31st October 2013. In accordance with grant conditions, the year-end DSG balance (whether positive or negative) must be carried forward to the following year and the Schools Forum must be consulted on how the surplus or deficit is managed.

2. Recommendations

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the latest position for the retained DSG budgets which is that an underspend of £0.373m is currently projected.
- 2.2 Note the latest 2013-14 DSG settlement confirmed by the DfE of £145.449m.

2013-14 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget position & Final Funding Announcement

Schools Forum

Date: 8th October 2013

3. Detail

Latest 2013-14 Retained Budget Position

- 3.1 At the 6th March 2013 Schools Forum meeting the values of the three blocks; Early Years, High Needs and Schools were agreed. The retained elements of these budgets were agreed at a value of £27.1m. Attached at **Annex A** is the report issued to the Economy and Attainment Leadership Team on 24th September which was based on information at the end of August and shows that an underspend of £0.373m is projected across the overall retained budget. The main reasons for this and commentaries on all high risk areas are provided in Annex A.
- 3.2 At this relatively early stage in the financial year, given the many high risk areas within the retained budget, the LA is cautious in assuming that this level of underspend will occur and therefore be available to allocate in 2014/15. Updates will therefore be provided to the January 2014 Schools Forum but for DSG planning purposes the LA would suggest that any projected in year surplus is ignored at this time.

Schools Forum is asked to note that the latest projection on the 2013-14 retained budget is an underspend of £0.373m

2013/14 DSG Settlement Update

- 3.3 At the last Schools Forum meeting the LA advised that the latest estimate of this year's DSG was £145.554m and DfE have since confirmed that this has been updated to £145.449m. This reflects a reduction of £0.106m and relates entirely to the January 2013 early year census. Although this means that less DSG funding will be received this year, spending on provision (see Annex A) is lower than the budget and there is no overall impact on Swindon's DSG position.

Schools Forum is asked to note that the latest 213/14 DSG settlement is £145.449m

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no proposals included within this report.

2013-14 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget position & Final Funding Announcement

Schools Forum

Date: 8th October 2013

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.

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 – Commissioning – Economy and Attainment Leadership Team