

# Briefing Note – Schools’ Forum

## 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018



City of  
**Stoke-on-Trent**

## Central School Services Block 2019-20

### Purpose

- 1.1 To provide forum members with an update of the ongoing responsibilities which are included within the Central School Services Block (CSSB).

### Key Issues:

#### **2 Introduction**

- 2.1 In 2019-20, ongoing responsibilities will continue to be funded in broadly the same way as previously with updated baselines in line with the 2018-19 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations.
- 2.2 Funding for historic commitments will be allocated at the same level as in 2018-19. The Department for Education’s (DfE) expectation remains that expenditure from DSG will reduce over time as contracts and other commitments reach their end points and they will continue to monitor this expenditure year-on-year. The DfE will seek explanations of expenditure recorded on section 251 returns where this is not reducing as expected.
- 2.3 However, at this stage the DfE are not proposing any changes to the regulations. Current regulations require authorities to spend no more on historic commitments than they did in the previous year and require such expenditure to have the approval of the schools’ forum. Therefore, authorities would still be able to maintain spending on historic commitments at current levels, using other funding.
- 2.4 From 2020-21, the DfE expect to start to reduce the historic commitments element of the CSSB where local authorities’ expenditure has not reduced. They do not believe it is fair to maintain indefinitely significant differences in funding between local authorities which reflect historic decisions.
- 2.5 Where local authorities hold duties in relation to all schools (as set out in schedule 2, parts 1 to 5 of the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2017), all schools must be treated on an equivalent basis.

### 3. Illustrative Central School Services Block Allocations 2019-20

3.1 Table 1, below, provides details of the illustrative local authority level allocations for 2019-20 and for comparative purposes the actual 2018-19 allocations based on July 2018 information.

**Table 1 – Illustrative Central School Services Block Allocations 2019-20**

Description	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Illustrative	Note
	£	£	
<b>Historic Commitments (Prior to April 2013)</b>			
Contribution to combined budgets	880,137	880,137	Contribution to support the education and effective learning of looked after children. Agreed prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013. <b>Schools' Forum approval is required.</b>
Existing termination of employments costs	1,504,733	1,504,733	Historic commitments relating to ongoing pension costs agreed prior to the 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013. <b>Schools' Forum approval is required.</b>
Prudential borrowing costs	621,324	621,324	Historic commitments relating to prudential borrowing agreed to support the development of education facilities and schools in 2005-06 and 2008-09. Repayment period ending in 2024-25 and 2027-28 respectively. <b>Schools' Forum approval is required.</b>
Back pay for equal pay claims	1,129,190	1,129,190	The commitment relates to the funding of Single Status in schools. On 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2008 Schools' Forum approved equal pay costs to be charged directly to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The payment period was ten years starting in 2009-10 and finishing in 2018-19. This covers equal pay costs for all schools and academies in the City. <b>Schools' Forum approval is required.</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,135,384</b>	<b>4,135,384</b>	

<b>Ongoing Responsibilities</b>			
Admissions	327,128	327,128	Expenditure on the operation of the system of admissions of pupils to schools (including expenditure incurred in carrying out consultations under section 88C(2) of the 1998 Act(b)) and in relation to appeals. <b>Schools' Forum approval is required.</b>
Servicing of schools forum	23,198	23,198	Expenditure incurred in connection with the LA's functions of running the forum as defined under section 47A of the 1998 Act (addition under Section 43 of Education Act 2002) (establishment and maintenance of, and consultation with, schools forums). <b>Schools' Forum approval is required.</b>
Contribution to responsibilities that local authorities hold for all schools	751,520	719,671	In 2017-18 the Education Services Grant (ESG) retained rate was included in the schools block of the Dedicated Schools Grant allocation. <b>Schools' Forum approval is required.</b>
Central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State	171,770	171,770	The DfE has agreed with the following agencies to purchase a single national licence managed by the Department for all state-funded schools in England: Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) • Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) • Education Recording Agency (ERA) • Filmbank Distributors Ltd. (for the PVSL) • Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS) • Motion Picture Licensing Company (MPLC) • Newspaper Licensing Authority

			(NLA) • Performing Rights Society (PRS) • Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) • Schools Printed Music Licence (SPML) <b>Schools' Forum approval is not required (although they should be consulted).</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,273,616</b>	<b>1,241,767</b>	
<b>Total Central Block</b>	<b>5,409,000</b>	<b>5,377,151</b>	