



NORTH YORKSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

Date of meeting:	Thursday 14 March 2024
Title of report:	Schools & CSSB Block 2024-25
Type of report: Delete as required	For decision
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	This paper sets out the final position with regard to the planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2024-25 following the finalisation of school budget allocations, including the resolution of the duplicate pupil records identified in the school budget calculation process. The paper also provides details of the planned expenditure for the 2024/25 Central School Services Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant.
Budget / Risk implications:	N/A
Recommendations:	That the North Yorkshire Schools Forum notes and approves this report
Voting requirements:	Schools Forum Voting Members
Appendices: To be attached	None
Report originator and contact details:	Sally Dunn, Head of Schools and Early Years Finance
Presenting officer: If not the originator	Howard Emmett, Assistant Director – Strategic Resources howard.emmett@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 532118



1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This paper sets out the final position with regard to the planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2024-25 following the finalisation of school budget allocations, including the resolution of the duplicate pupil records identified in the school budget calculation process. The paper also provides details of the planned expenditure for the 2024/25 Central School Services Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

2.0 PLANNED SCHOOLS BLOCK EXPENDITURE

- 2.1 At the time of the January 2023 meeting of the Schools Forum, issues were outstanding in respect of the final position for the funding requirement from the 2024/25 Schools Block DSG. The outstanding issues related to:
- The identification of a number of duplicate pupil records in the October 2023 pupil census data resulting in the risk of double funding and an additional funding pressure
 - DfE confirmation in respect of the Exceptional Rents funding
- 2.2 The schools and academies recorded as having duplicate pupils were contacted and resolution was achieved in all cases with regard to validity of the duplicate records. Two pupils were identified as duplicate; these related to instances where the duplicate was recorded against a school or academy outside of North Yorkshire and there was irrevocable evidence that the correct record was with the North Yorkshire school or academy. The funding implication was £11k for the 2024/25 Schools Block DSG.
- 2.3 On the 15 January 2024, the DfE provided approval for the Exceptional Rents funding for eligible schools and academies in North Yorkshire. The approval provided is for the 2024/25 financial year only.
- 2.4 The funding shortfall for the 2024/25 financial year, after use of reserves and release of the annual funding allocation for Pupil Growth & Falling Rolls to school budgets, is £1,930k. This has been managed through the use of the DfE school NFF capping and scaling mechanism that can be utilised at a local level in order to ensure affordability of the funding formula. The final position is a funding gains cap of 1.69% and scaling back rate of 100% has been applied for the management of the £1,930k funding shortfall
- 2.5 A full summary of the final Schools Block for the 2024/25 financial year is detailed below:

Schools Block (£000s)	£'000	
<u>Individual School Budget (ISB)</u>		
Indicative ISB – Unadjusted	435,311	



Required Capping & Scaling Adjustment (Indicative)	-1,930	
Indicative Adjusted ISB (School Delegated Budgets)	433,381	
Funded by:		
Schools Block Funding Available for 2024/25 School Budgets (net of funding transfer to High Needs Block & DfE Pupil Growth Funding allocation)	432,116	
Pupil Growth – New School Provision Reserve (Keeble & Cambrai additional year groups and Oakbridge initial delegated budget from September 2024)	265	
Release of Schools Block DSG - Pupil Growth Funding Allocation to School Budgets	500	
Schools Block General DSG Reserve	500	
TOTAL	433,381	
<u>Central Budgets</u>		
Pupil Growth – New School Provision Reserve	1,784	
	1,784	
<u>Funded by:</u>		
Schools Block DSG - Pupil Growth Funding Allocation	1,784	
	1,784	
Total Indicative Schools Block Funding Requirement	435,165	
Funded By:		
Schools Block DSG Funding Available for 2024/25 School Budgets	432,116	
Pupil Growth – New School Provision Reserve (Keeble & Cambrai additional year groups and Oakbridge initial delegated budget from September 2024)	265	
Schools Block DSG - Pupil Growth Funding Allocation	2,284	
Schools Block General DSG Reserve	500	
TOTAL	435,165	



<u>De-delegated</u>		
Schools in Financial Difficulty – Schools Causing Concern element	227	
Trade Union Costs	109	
School Improvement – Core Service	703	
	1,039	

3.0 CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK EXPENDITURE (BUDGET)

3.1 The 2024/25 Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) funding level of £3.386m reflects the ongoing reduction in the Historic Commitments element of the Block, with a reduction of £146k from £0.732m to £0.586m. There has been an increase of £126k in the grant income for Ongoing Functions. The overall impact provides a net decrease in CSSB grant allocation of £20k compared to the 2023/24 baseline figure.

3.2 The CSSB budget for the following financial year is usually reported to the January meeting of the Schools Forum. However, at that point the DfE were still undertaking negotiations with some of the copyright management organisations for new agreements resulting in the announcement of the Copyright License fee for the 2024/25 financial year being delayed. Whilst the fee for the Copyright License has not been formally notified, the DfE have informed local authorities that the average increase in the fee is 8.5% for 2024/25; they have indicated that an additional amount will be included in the CSSB block for 2025/26 to cover the additional inflation levels. The CSSB is made up of the following budgets:

	£'000s
<u>Historic Commitments</u>	
Prevention Service	586
<u>Ongoing Functions</u>	
Access management, Admissions and Appeals	803
Schools Forum	70
Copyright Licences	661
Education Services – Retained Duties	1,052
Centrally Employed Teacher Costs	214
TOTAL	3,386

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The North Yorkshire Schools Forum is asked to note and approve the contents of this report.

STUART CARLTON

Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service