

Date of meeting:	Thursday 16 March 2023
Title of report:	Schools Block 2023-24
Type of report: Delete as required	For information
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	<p>This paper sets out, for information, the final position with regard to the planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2023-24, following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The finalisation of the funding requirement from the Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Reserve to meet the shortfall of £782k in funding between the 2023/24 Schools Block DSG and the 2023/24 school budget funding requirement. - The resolution of the duplicate pupil records identified in the 2023/24 school budget calculation process. - Confirmation of the local authority joining the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) central payment process for National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) for the 2023/24 financial year.
Budget / Risk implications:	The Schools Block DSG Reserve of £2.9m (as at 31 March 2022) will be utilised to meet the shortfall in funding between the 2023/24 Schools Block DSG and the 2023/24 school budget funding requirement.
Recommendations:	That the North Yorkshire Schools Forum notes this report
Voting requirements:	N/A
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	<p>Howard Emmett, Assistant Director – Strategic Resources</p> <p>howard.emmett@northyorks.gov.uk</p> <p>01609 532118</p>

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This paper sets out, for information, the final position with regard to the planned expenditure on the Schools Block Budget in 2023-24, following:
- The finalisation of the funding requirement from the Schools Block DSG Reserve to meet the shortfall in funding between the 2023/24 Schools Block DSG and the 2023/24 school budget funding requirement.
 - The resolution of the duplicate pupil records identified in the 2023/24 school budget calculation process.
 - Confirmation of the local authority joining the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) central payment process for National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for the 2023/24 financial year.

2.0 PLANNED SCHOOLS BLOCK EXPENDITURE

- 2.1 At the time of the January 2023 meeting of the Schools Forum, a number of issues were outstanding in respect of the final position for the funding requirement from the 2023/24 Schools Block DSG. The outstanding issues related to:
- The finalisation of the funding requirement from the Schools Block DSG Reserve to meet the shortfall in funding identified between the 2023/24 Schools Block DSG and the 2023/24 school budget funding requirement as a result of a change in the pupil characteristic profile between the October 2021 and October 2022 pupil census data, particularly in relation to free school meals (FSM) and English as an additional language (EAL)
 - The identification of a number of duplicate pupil records in the October 2022 pupil census data resulting in the risk of double funding and an additional funding pressure
 - The implications of the NNDR revaluation from 1st April 2023 and the lag in funding of the cost increase through the local authority retaining a local payment process for school NNDR in the 2023/24 financial year.
- 2.2 The final position with regard to the funding shortfall between the 2023/24 Schools Block DSG and the 2023/24 school budget funding requirement is £782k, after a further DfE technical adjustment for NNDR implications of school closures in 2022/23.
- 2.3 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. In this respect there is no overall funding implication for the 2023/24 Schools Block DSG.
- 2.4 The local authority has joined the ESFA central payment process for NNDR for the 2023/24 financial year whereby school business rates will be paid directly by the ESFA to billing authorities on behalf of schools. Schools will retain formal liability for paying business rates, but the ESFA will act as a paying agent on their behalf. Schools are still required to make provision for the rates charge within their budgets. Participation in the ESFA central payment process alleviates the implications of the lag in the funding of the cost increase associated with the NNDR revaluation from 1st April 2023 through the Schools Block DSG and the associated impact on school budgets. There is no overall funding implication for the 2023/24 Schools Block DSG as a result of this

change. LA maintained schools and academies will be notified of any NNDR payment process changes required as a result of this development.

- 2.5 A full summary of the final Schools Block in 2023-24, including a list of de-delegated and centrally-managed budgets is shown below.

Schools Block (£000s)	£'000	
Net ISB (delegated budgets)	414,317	99.17%
De-delegated		
Schools in Financial Difficulty – Schools Causing Concern element	238	
Unreasonable School Expenditure	46	
Trade Union Costs	115	
School Improvement – Core Service	739	
Total De-Delegated	1,138	0.27%
<u>Total School Delegated Budgets</u>	415,455	
<u>Central Budgets</u>		
Falling Rolls	50	
Pupil Growth	450	
Pupil Growth – New School Provision Reserve	1,827	
<u>Total Central Budgets</u>	2,327	0.56%
NNDR Closed School Adjustment (DfE technical adjustment)	20	
TOTAL	417,802	
Funded by:		
2023/24 Schools Block DSG	416,884	
Pupil Growth – New School Provision Reserve (Keeble & Cambrai additional year groups)	136	
Schools Block General DSG Reserve	782	
TOTAL	417,802	

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The North Yorkshire Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of this report.

STUART CARLTON

Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service