

Date of meeting:	Thursday 17 March 2022
Title of report:	Schools Block 2022-23
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 2022-23, following confirmation from the Secretary of State of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closure of Baldersby St James CE Primary Academy on 31 August 2022. • Approval of the LA disapplication request to de-delegate funding from school budgets to support the provision of statutory core school improvement activities.
Budget / Risk implications:	N/A
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
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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 2022-23, following confirmation from the Secretary of State of:
- The closure of Baldersby St James CE Primary Academy on 31 August 2022.
 - Approval of the LA disapplication request to de-delegate funding from school budgets to support the provision of statutory core school improvement activities.

2.0 PLANNED SCHOOLS BLOCK EXPENDITURE

- 2.1 The DfE published the outcome of their consultation “Reforming how local authorities’ school improvement functions are funded” on the 11th January 2022. This confirmed the implantation of the consultation proposals, with a reduction of 50% to the funding provided through the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant for the 2022/23 financial year followed by removal of the grant funding in 2023/24. At the meeting on the 16th December 2021, the Schools Forum rejected an “in principle” proposal to de-delegate funding from school budgets in the 2022/23 financial year to fund statutory services related to the provision of core school improvement activities. Given the extremely short timescale for the development and implementation of an alternative model for the provision of these services, NYCC submitted a disapplication request to the Secretary of State for Education to seek approval for the de-delegation of the funds in the 2022/23 financial year. Approval of this request was received on 8 February 2022. A flat rate sum of £1,712 has been de-delegated from each LA maintained school budget to support the provision of statutory core school improvement activities following the 50% reduction in the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant for the 2022/23 financial year. The Local Authority will be reviewing the statutory core school improvement service delivery model for 2023/24 in response to the outcome of the DfE consultation. As part of this review, work will be undertaken with the Schools Forum and LA maintained schools to consider service provision requirements, and associated funding de-delegation methodologies for 2023/24. The views of all LA maintained schools will be welcomed through this review process.
- 2.2 The Secretary of State approved the Regional Schools Commissioner’s proposal for the closure of Baldersby St. James CE Primary Academy on 31st August 2022. Based on ESFA guidance, the 2022/23 Planned Schools Block makes funding provision for Baldersby St. James CE Primary Academy for the 5 month period of April to August 2022. The funding allocation related to the school for the period September 2022 to March 2023 has been allocated to the Pupil Growth Fund as a specific provision. This funding provision will be available to cover ESFA funding recoupment where pupils transfer to a successor academy from the closed school in September 2022 or for the LA to fund successor maintained schools where pupils transfer in September 2022 from the closed school. The Local Authority Pupil Growth Fund Policy will be updated to reflect the provision of Pupil Growth Funding to schools and academies receiving pupils from a closed school. The updated policy will be presented to the May 2022 meeting of the Schools Forum.

- 2.3 A full summary of the final Schools Block in 2022-23, including a list of de-delegated and centrally-managed budgets is shown below. The summary reflects the de-delegation decisions made at the December 2021 meeting of the Forum and the decisions provided by the Secretary of State with regard to the closure of Baldersby St James CE Academy and the LA disapplication request to de-delegate funds to support the provision of statutory core school improvement activities.

Schools Block (£000s)	£'000	
ISB (delegated budgets)	388,933	99.19%
<u>De-delegated</u>		
Schools in Financial Difficulty	445	
Unreasonable School Expenditure	48	
Trade Union Costs	108	
Statutory Core School Improvement Activities	375	
	976	0.25%
<u>Central Budgets</u>		
Falling Rolls	50	
Pupil Growth	450	
Pupil Growth – Baldersby, St James CE Primary School expected closure – estimated pupil transfer provision	149	
Pupil Growth – New School Provision Reserve	1,553	
	2,202	0.56%
TOTAL	392,111	
Funded by:		
2022/23 Schools Block DSG	392,011	
Schools Block DSG Reserve	100	
	392,111	

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