

**Schools Forum
16 January 2018**

Approval of Central Expenditure Budgets for 2018/19

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 For Schools Forum to approve the proposed Central Expenditure for 2018/19 as determined by the EFA and set out in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Schools Forum approve tables 1, 2 and 3 as set out to form the basis for central expenditure for the 2018/19 financial year.

3. Background

- 3.1 The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations state that “A local authority must not deduct the expenditure referred to in Part 1 (Central Services), Part 2 (Central Schools Expenditure), Part 3 (Central Early Years Expenditure) or Part 5 (Items that May Be Removed From Maintained Schools Budget Shares) of Schedule 2 without authorisation from their Schools Forum under regulation 12 (1), or from the Secretary of State under regulation 12 (3).
- 3.2 This report therefore sets out the amounts that Walsall Council proposes to deduct for 2018/19 and seeks authorisation from Schools Forum.

4. Items Under Part 1 (Central Services)

- 4.1 **Table 1** below highlights the proposed Central Services that would be funded from the newly created Schools Central Services Block of DSG.

Table 1 – Central Services		
Area	Value for 2018/19 (£)	Comments
Schools Admissions	331,000	This is the same value as that requested for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18, and is the value that has been funded within the Schools Central Services Block of DSG.
Music Service	38,000	This value for 2018/19 has already been agreed by Schools Forum at their meeting on 19 September 2017, and is the value that has been funded within the Schools Central Services Block of DSG.
Servicing Schools Forum and Admissions Appeals	16,478	This is the same value as that requested for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18, and is the value that has been funded within the Schools Central Services Block of DSG. This represents approximately £5k for costs associated with Schools Forum and £11k associated with administering and servicing admission appeals.

5. Items Under Part 2 (Central Schools Expenditure)

- 5.1 **Table 2** below highlights the proposed Central Schools Expenditure that would also be funded from the newly created Schools Central Services Block of DSG.

Table 2 – Central Schools Expenditure		
Area	Value for 2018/19 (£)	Comments
Licenses (coded under other items)	217,490	This is based on the value provided by the EFA and included within the Schools Central Services Block of DSG and is in relation to a national agreement for copyright licences.

6. Part 3 (Central Early Years Expenditure)

- 6.1 Table 3 highlights the proposed Central Early Years Expenditure to be funded from the Early Years Block of DSG.

Table 3 – Central Early Years Expenditure		
Area	Value for 2018/19 (£)	Comments
Early Years Contingency	300,000	This is estimated based on actual costs required to be paid out to providers from the central early years contingency for 2017/18 and is used to fund termly changes in pupil numbers for 3 and 4 year olds.
Expenditure on Children under 5	500,000	Under the updated Early Years finance regulations the local authority is allowed to retain up to 5% of early years funding centrally to fund central early years services, however the £500k requested here is below this level (circa 2.5% of overall Early Years DSG block funding for 2018/19) and in line with that approved by schools forum in previous years.

7. Financial implications / Value for Money

- 7.1 All values set out are either at or below those agreed for 2017/18, or in line with forecast costs expected for 2017/18 or estimated costs provided for 2017/18, and can be contained within the overall Schools Central Services Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, and the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding received by Walsall.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations state that “A local authority must not deduct the expenditure referred to in Part 1 (Central Services), Part 2 (Central Schools Expenditure), Part 3 (Central Early Years Expenditure) or Part 5 (Items that May Be Removed From Maintained Schools Budget Shares) of Schedule 2 without authorisation from their Schools Forum under regulation 12 (1), or from the Secretary of State under regulation 12 (3).

9. School Improvement

- 9.1 No issues directly arising from this report.

10. Members eligible to vote

- 10.1 All elected members with voting rights are eligible to vote on this matter.