

Schools Forum
10 January 2017

Approval of Central Expenditure Budgets for 2017/18

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 For Schools Forum to approve the proposed Central Expenditure for 2017/18 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 2017/18 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 2017/18 and seeks authorisation from Schools Forum.

4. Items Under Part 1 (Central Services)

- 4.1 **Table 1** below highlights the proposed Central Services.

Table 1 – Central Services		
Area	Value for 2016/17 (£)	Comments
Schools Admissions	331,000	This is the same value as that requested for 2015/16 and 2016/17.
Music Service	38,000	This value for 2017/18 has already been agreed by Schools Forum at their meeting on 20 September 2016.
Servicing Schools Forum and Admissions Appeals	16,478	This is the same value as that requested for 2015/16 and 2016/17, representing 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.

Table 2 – Central Schools Expenditure		
Area	Value for 2016/17 (£)	Comments
Licenses (coded under other items)	217,490	This is based on the value provided by the EFA and is in relation to a national agreement for copyright licences.
Pupil Growth	73,000	<p>The EFA have approved an amendment to the way in which growth funding is allocated going forward, which will now be based on a variation to pupil numbers to allocate funding for growth to schools within their main budget share from 2017/18 onwards.</p> <p>For maintained schools where growth has been agreed the funded pupil number will be calculated on 5/12ths of October 2016 census + 7/12ths of the estimated pupil numbers for the period September 2017 – March 2018. This will be paid within main budget shares and so no central funding is required.</p> <p>For Academy schools where growth has been agreed the funded pupil number will be calculated on the estimated pupil numbers for the period September 2017 – August 2018 (to reflect the differing financial years of academies). This will be paid within main budget shares and so no central funding is required.</p> <p>Additionally for those schools where growth funding was previously agreed who converted during the last financial year (i.e. Caldmore and Fibbersley), there will need to be an additional payment in the Summer Term 2017 to reflect the fall out of the previously agreed growth funding of £22,640 for the autumn and spring terms (which reflected) prior to the above budget share funding being allocated from September 2017. This will be based on 30 pupils per schools (the amount of extra places agreed) multiplied by the AWPU rate per pupil. A central budget of £73,000 will be required for this (30 places x 2 schools x £2,913 per place).</p>

6. Part 3 (Central Early Years Expenditure)

6.1 Table 3 highlights the proposed Central Early Years Expenditure.

Table 3 – Central Early Years Expenditure		
Area	Value for 2016/17 (£)	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 2016/17 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 7% 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 2017/18) 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 2016/17, or in line with forecast costs expected for 2016/17 or estimated costs provided for 2017/18, and can be contained within the overall 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.