

Approval of Central Expenditure Budgets for 2016/17

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 For Schools Forum to approve Central Expenditure for 2016/17 as determined by the EFA and described in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.

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 2016/17 financial year.

3. Background

- 3.1 The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013 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 2016/17 and seeks authorisation from Schools Forum. It is important to note that all values set out are either at or below those agreed for 2015/16.

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 value has already been agreed by Schools Forum (and subsequently the Secretary of State) for 2015/16 and 2016/17 at their meeting on 9 December 2014.
Music Service	38,000	This value for 2016/17 has already been agreed by Schools Forum at their meeting on 22 September 2015

Servicing Schools Forum and Admissions Appeals	16,478	This is the same as the 2013/14 and 2014/15 value, representing approximately £5k for costs associated with Schools Forum and £11k associated with administering and servicing admission appeals.
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5. Items Under Part 2 (Central Schools Expenditure)

5.1 **Table 2** below highlights the proposed areas of spend

Table 2 – Central Schools Expenditure		
Area	Value for 2016/17 (£)	Comments
Pupil Growth	113,200	<p>This funding is given to schools who are expanding. It is £22,640 per school which represents 7 months of a teachers salary costs. This will continue for 7 years.</p> <p>Caldmore, Hilary, King Charles and Christchurch will be in their third year of funding for 2016/17 and Fibbersley will be in their second year.</p>

6. Part 3 (Central Early Years Expenditure)

6.1 Table 3 highlights the proposed areas of spend

Table 3 – Central Early Years Expenditure		
Area	Value for 2016/17 (£)	Comments
Early Years Contingency	150,000	This is the same value as 2015/16 and less than the value for 2014/15 (which was £300,000) and is used to fund termly changes in pupil numbers for 3 and 4 year olds
Expenditure on Children under 5	460,000	This is the same amount as 2015/16 and 2014/15 and is used to fund various staff activities supporting under 5's
Carry over of trajectory funding	996,403	<p>This funding was originally agreed by Schools Forum at their meeting in January 2014 and March 2014 to be carried forward and ring fenced for 2 year olds.</p> <p>The opening value carried forward into 2015/16 was circa £1.2m. The value shown in the table represents the current level of unutilised funding as at October 2015, however this may reduce further by the end of 2015/16 as funding is utilised to support transition costs of 2 year old providers (as agreed by Schools Forum at their meeting on 7 July 2015)</p>

7. Financial implications / Value for Money

- 7.1 All values set out are either at or below those agreed for 2015/16, 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 2013 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.