



SCHOOLS' FORUM

5th October 2023

SCHOOLS' FUNDING UPDATE

Report from Andrew Merry, Finance Manager

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools' Forum:

1. Agrees to continue to transfer the 0.5% to the High Needs Block schools.
2. Notes the content of the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of Schools Forum is to advise local authorities on the operation of the local Schools Budget and its distribution among schools and other bodies. This paper updates the Forum on the Schools Funding Position.
- 1.2 This paper is also asking for a decision on continuing the transfer of 0.5% from the schools' block to the high needs block

2 SCHOOLS FUNDING 2023/2024

- 2.1 The table below summarises the current forecast on the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2023/24.

	Schools £000	High Needs £000	Early Years £000	Central Schools £000	Total £000
Surplus/(Deficit) Carry Forwards from 2022/23	(4)	(1,515)	108	86	(1,325)
DSG Allocations prior to recoupment	30,294	5,656	1,609	198	37,757
Transfer between blocks	(151)	151			0
Academy Recoupment	(29,158)	(310)			(29,468)
Expenditure in Year					
Schools' allocations	(985)				(985)
Nationally Agreed School Licences				(41)	(41)
Admissions Service- staffing costs				(63)	(63)
Statutory & Retained Duties				(94)	(94)

Education for under 5's			(83)		(83)
Early Years Pathway Development			(48)		(48)
3 & 4 Year Old Funding			(1,409)		(1,409)
2 Year Old Funding			(117)		(117)
SEN Funding Maintained Schools and Academies		(3,107)			(2,774)
SEN Funding Post 16		(178)			(137)
SEN Recovery Plan Expenditure		(309)			(378)
SEN Funding - Independent Special Schools		(1,406)			(1,377)
SEN Funding EOTAS & Tuition		(795)			(521)
SEN RCC Recharge		(197)			(197)
Early Years Inclusion (SENIF)		(50)			(50)
Under/(Over) spends in 2023/24	0	(545)	48	0	(304)
Surplus/(Deficit) Carried Forward to 2023/24	(4)	(2,060)	60	86	(1,918)

2.2 The High Needs Block continues to be the biggest area for concern. The Councils recovery plan is having a positive impact, but demand is outstripping the savings we generate from the actions in the recovery plan.

3 SCHOOLS BLOCK TRANSFER 2024/2025

3.1 As in previous years the Council is asking schools forum to support the transfer of 0.5% from the schools' block to the high needs block.

3.2 The amount is expected to be in line with the current year c£150k, depending on final allocations.