

SCHOOLS' FORUM

Day: Wednesday
Date: 2 March 2016
Time: 1.30 pm
Place: Lesser Hall - Dukinfield Town Hall

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	MINUTES The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Forum held on 20 October 2015 to be approved as a correct record.	1 - 6
3.	UPDATE ON CATERING CONTRACT Verbal report of Executive Director, Governance & Resources.	
4.	SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN UPDATE Report of the Assistant Executive Director, Learning attached.	7 - 16
5.	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT FUNDING UPDATE Report of the Assistant Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) attached.	17 - 26
6.	COUNCIL MANAGED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING UPDATE Report of the Assistant Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) attached.	27 - 40
7.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To agree a date and time for the next meeting of the Forum.	

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ITEM NO: 2

SCHOOLS FORUM

20 October 2015

Commenced: 1.30pm Terminated: 3.30pm

Present:	Janet Rathburn (Chair)	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Lisa Gallaher	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Scott Lees	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Bev Allford	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Karen Burns	Primary Schools - Academies
	Anthony McDermott	Governor, Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Susan Marsh	Governor, Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Pam Hirst	Governor, Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Eamonn Murphy	Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Richard O'Regan	Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Janet Burns	Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Brendan Hesketh	Secondary Schools - Academies
	Linda Lester	Special Schools – L/A Maintained
	Jeffrey Mellor	Governor, Special Schools - Academies
	Ann Slater	NASUWT
	Elaine Horridge	Diocesan representative
	Heather Loveridge	Assistant Executive Director – Learning
	Catherine Moseley	Head of Access & Inclusion
	Stephen Wilde	Head of Resource Management
	David Thompstone	Senior Resource Manager
Apologies for absence:		
	Elizabeth Jones	Governor, Secondary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Des Howlett	Primary Schools – L/A Maintained
	Janet Nevin	14 – 19 Sector
	Matt Jennings	Secondary Schools – Academies
	Robin Elm	Special Schools – L/A Maintained
	Helen Hayes	Diocesan representative
	Elaine Todd	Assistant Executive Director – Asset & Investment Partnership Management, Economic Growth, Investment & Sustainability

25. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 7 July 2015, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record.

26. CONFIRMED SCHOOL BALANCES 2014/5

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director of Finance (section 151 Officer) giving information on the reconciled school balances at 31 March 2015.

The final level of school balances as at 31 March 2015 was £8,789 million, a decrease of £2,792 million on the balance reported at 31 March 2014.

Summary details were also provided of the cumulative level of Tameside school balances for the previous three financial years.

The Head of Resource Management reported that over the next three years some schools would be projecting deficit budget levels. Meetings had taken place with those schools with balances in excess of twice the permitted threshold but these schools have since had building work undertaken over the summer and the monies were now spent. He reported on those schools with excess balances and the variety of proposals put forward by the schools for spending the excess. Furthermore if schools had not spent the excess money by the end of the financial year, the Council would hold the monies until spent. One suggestion put forward by schools was that the Council provide details of recovery plans, which would enable schools to reduce their balances within reasonable times. Concerns were expressed that those schools with planned capital schemes may choose to defer these in view of impending budget cuts and a discussion ensued.

It was confirmed that the Council was in the process of putting together financial plans with proposals, which will be put forward to schools.

AGREED

- (i) That the content of the report be noted; and**
- (ii) That the existing excess revenue surplus balance monitoring mechanism for schools within the Borough from 1 April 2014 be continued, i.e. planned commitments are required for revenue surplus balances in excess of 8% of delegated revenue budget for Primary and Special schools and 5% of delegated revenue budget for Secondary schools. Commitment details are to be reported to the Schools Forum which will have the opportunity to consider a redistribution mechanism for any uncommitted revenue balances above permitted thresholds.**

27. COUNCIL MANAGED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING STATEMENT – QUARTER 2

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director of Finance (section 151 Officer), which detailed the centrally managed Dedicated Schools Grant for 2015/16.

The report detailed the financial monitoring position for 2015/16 at the end of September 2015 for the Council Services as listed in Appendix A, the Centrally Managed High Needs services and the Early Years funding that was delegated to Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers.

AGREED

- (i) That the content of the report be noted; and**
- (ii) Members support the proposal to change the charging mechanism for the contribution towards the Local Safeguarding Children Board, to one which was based on pupil numbers at each school.**

28. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Finance (Section 151 Officer) which informed members of the arrangements concerning the Dedicated Schools Grant..

It was reported that the Schools Block was the largest element of DSG funding, which provided the majority of funding for Mainstream School, with additional elements potentially being allocated to Mainstream Schools through the Early Years and High Needs blocks. The Department for Education (DfE) carried out a “Fairer Schools Funding 2015/16” consultation in relation to proposed changes to the Schools Block element of the DSG earlier this year. As a result of the responses they received to the consultation the DfE agreed to some minor changes to their original proposals, but no significant changes were made to them.

Over the last three years the DfE had consistently stated that School funding was unfairly allocated. They believed that Schools with similar characteristics in different Local Authority areas were allocated substantially different levels of funding as a result of historic funding allocations. The DfE used data provided by each Local Authority in relation to the unit rates used in 2013/14 in their respective local funding formulae to arrive at minimum levels of funding for each Local Authority. These Minimum Funding Levels (MFL) per pupil also included a hybrid area cost adjustment which was intended to reflect prevailing market rates.

It was reported that under the new formulae, Tameside would not receive any additional DSG Schools Block funding in 2015/16 or 2016/17 through the MFL. No indication had been given by the DfE of whether the 2017/18 Schools Block allocation would be based on MFL rates, but if it was fully implemented by the DfE without any protection there would be an estimated reduction of £5.264m, which equated to 3.52% of the current allocation.

Due to the scale of potential reduction in funding from 2017/18 onwards it was considered prudent to provide Schools/Academies with estimates of the worst case budgets that could arise from full implementation of the MFL. During March 2016 the Council would issue funding estimates for 2017/18 based on both the DfE's new MFL proposal and on the basis of the current local funding scheme.

It was explained that a separate report being considered later on the agenda described the projected increased costs in the Post 16 High Needs placements area of £552,067 in 2015/16. This was due to a combination of a volume of students accessing the provision and the DfE funding regulation making it easier for providers in this sector to dictate the cost of placements. Urgent discussions were taking place with the main provider to try to reduce these costs.

Reference was made to the High Needs Pre 16 Block and how the DfE funding regime allocated funding to Special Schools. The first was a standard Top-up rate per School used for those schools whose children had very similar needs. The second method used in Tameside involved placing each child in a Top-up banding based on their assessed needs, which meant Schools had children in different Top-up bandings.

The report detailed work that was due to take place reviewing how comparable the Top-up bandings were across the North West Councils and trying to ensure that any comparisons were as accurate as possible, as there would be variations in the criteria used for each Council's Top-up bandings. The increasing number of children in the Pre-16 Special School sector meant that there was insufficient funding to support the Pre-16 places in 2016/17. This was primarily because the amount of DSG funding allocated by the DfE per child above nursery age in Tameside was £4,709.91 but the average total placement cost per child in Tameside was closer to £21,596 so every additional child with High Needs created considerable additional funding challenges.

AGREED

That the content of the report be noted.

29. TRADED AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO SCHOOLS 2016/17

The Assistant Executive Director, Learning submitted a report, which updated Members on the delivery of traded and support services to schools and proposed that the existing arrangements continued for a further year after April 2016 to enable the Local Authority to determine how those services could best be delivered in the future.

Following consultation with Head teachers and the Schools Forum last year, it was agreed that all traded services would be procured on the basis of a two year commitment to enable both school and the Council to plan with greater certainty. The uptake from schools had continued to be high.

As part of the Local Authority's commitment to school, quality assurance processes had also been put in place to monitor the delivery of services. A Head teacher Panel was convened in May 2015 at which all service managers attended to receive feedback and provided responses to issues which were raised. Schools now needed to consider which services they would want to procure for 2016/17 based on the offer the Council put forward.

It was pointed out that it had become apparent that there were demands on certain services that exceeded the cost recovery, e.g. HR support for schools where some school leaders required additional support, or where there were particularly complex cases requiring additional support beyond the normal expectations. These would need to be reviewed.

A discussion ensued and Members sought and were given assurances from the Council that the quality of services would be maintained.

Members asked that De-delegation be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Forum.

Members stated that they could not make a definitive decision about services for December 2015 without canvassing their colleagues and asked for more time. They were informed that they would need to provide a definitive decision by the time of the meeting of the Forum in February 2016.

AGREED

(i) **That for the financial year 2016/17, the Council continued to offer the services listed in Appendix A, with the proviso that:**

- **HR Support Services were packaged to reflect a more realistic cost of time required on case work;**
- **Education Welfare and Educational Psychology Support Services reviewed their capacity to deliver support over above their statutory functions;**
- **The cost of all remaining Council Services delivered to schools was reviewed and prices updated where appropriate; and**
- **An appropriate level of inflation was applied to those services where existing prices reflected the actual cost of service delivery.**

30. EDUCATION SUMMIT JULY 2015

A report was submitted by the Assistant Executive Director, Learning, which provided Members with feedback on the purpose and outcomes of the Tameside Education Summit held in July 2015. There were some very clear messages which emerged from national speakers that set the scene for schools working together and supporting each other.

There was no doubt that strategic approaches involving schools working together enabled many issues such as succession planning, subject networks and school to school support to be addressed more effectively. The clear messages from the Summit was that change in the education system needed to be driven by the profession and the role of the local authority was to initiate and help lead that drive for change. The Council needed to secure a long term and sustained commitment from schools to work together and move from a position of 'my school' to 'our schools'.

The work that was being developed with the Summit Task Group represented the first stages in developing a vision for education that looked forward to the next two to three years and focused on some particular issues in relation to Transition, Assessment without Levels and Behaviour – the themes of the workshops.

AGREED

That the contents of the report and action plan be noted.

31. PRIMARY CATERING UPDATE

The Assistant Executive Director, Finance (Section 151 Officer) submitted a report, which updated Members on the cost of the Council Managed Catering Service in 2015/16.

The report detailed the catering service charging mechanism and costs for Schools accessing the Council Managed Catering Service.

Discussion ensued and Members sought clarification about how much notice was required if Schools opted out of the contract to go with a different service provider and about the tendering process as they felt that there were other cheaper options available outside of the Authority.

Members were advised that the catering costs also included utilisation of kitchen equipment and Schools would need to be provided with clarity about what costs they would be responsible for if they took their services to a third party provider.

Members requested that a report on this urgent piece of work be provided as soon as possible and sought a meeting with the Executive Director, Place, regarding clarity on school meals.

AGREED

- (i) That the content of the report be noted; and**
- (ii) That Members support in principle the allocation of DSG Contingency to the small number of Schools who would need to fund an increase in the net cost of the Catering Service in 2015/16. The actual cost of this DSG Contingency allocation was expected to be less than £25,000.**

32. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Forum would meet on Tuesday 8 December 2015 commencing at 1.30pm.

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ITEM NO: 4

Report To:	SCHOOLS FORUM
Date:	2 March 2016
Reporting Officer:	Bob Berry – Assistant Executive Director - Learning.
Subject:	SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN FUNDING UPDATE
Report Summary:	A report to update members on the use of the Schools Causing Concern funding in financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 and proposals concerning its future use.
Recommendations:	Members of the Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of the report and to consider the proposals for future use of this funding.
Links to Community Strategy:	Effectively calculated and targeted resources will improve access to a high quality education experience for all our children.
Policy Implications:	In line with current policy
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the section 151 officer)	The report provides a summary of the contributions made by Schools over the last two years and how that funding has been used to date. Members of the Schools Forum are asked to consider the proposals for future use of this funding.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	There is a statutory duty to use resources efficiently and effectively against priorities.
Risk Management:	The correct accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant is a condition of the grant and procedures exist in budget monitoring and the closure of accounts to ensure that this is achieved. These will be subject to regular review.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.

Background Papers

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Stephen Wilde – Head of Resource Management, Directorate of Finance by:

 Telephone: 0161 342 3726

 e-mail: stephen.wilde@tameside.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Tameside Schools Causing Concern Budget has provided important financial support to Primary schools for a number of years. Schools have paid into the fund on a per pupil basis Primary Schools choose to pay into this fund each year. The proportion of schools choosing to contribute to the fund is falling. In financial year 2015/2016 around 60% of primary schools contributed to the fund. Head teachers have rightly questioned the transparency of this funding in terms of allocation and accountability. This funding is used to support schools that are currently categorized as Requiring Improvement or are categorized at 3B or below against the descriptors found in Tameside's Schools Causing Concern Policy which was last updated in September 2015. Currently there are 21 schools categorized as 3B schools.
- 1.2 The budget supports the commissioning work of the SPSO officer and Schools are supported financially in a variety of ways:
- Deployment of Associate Head Teacher.
 - Deployment of SLE through Teaching School Alliance.
 - Deployment of consultant to work with Head Teacher / Governing Body.
 - Deployment of consultant to work directly with Teaching Staff (Teaching and Learning Coach / Subject Specialist / Moderator)
 - Support a school based improvement project with external support.

2. FUNDING

- 2.1 During 2015/16 46 out of 74 schools contributed to the Schools Causing Concern Budget. Schools paid £9.46 per pupil in 2014/2015 and £9.79 per pupil in 2015/16. **Appendix A** shows a list of the Schools who made contributions towards this budget in both financial years. The total contributed by Schools in 2015/16 was £114,736 which has been combined with the £89,372 carried forward from 2014/15 to give a total budget available in 2015/16 of £203,972

3. SCHOOLS SUPPORTED FROM THE BUDGET

- 3.1 The following schools have either accessed support from the budget already or funding has been committed to support further work in 2016.
- Hurst Knoll CE Primary School
 - Canon Johnson CE Primary School
 - St Paul's RC Primary School, Hyde
 - The Heys Primary School
 - Audenshaw Primary School
 - St Stephens CE Primary School
 - Greenfield Primary School
 - Gee Cross Holy Trinity CE Primary
 - Waterloo Primary School
 - Corrie Primary School
 - St Anne's RC Primary School
 - St Paul's CE Primary School
 - St Stephen's RC Primary School
 - Broadoak Primary School
 - Dowson Primary School
 - Leigh Primary School
 - Poplar Street Primary School
 - Yew Tree Primary School

In addition to this 14 primary schools currently in the OFSTED window had a thorough and independent review of their website funded from this budget. **Appendix B** contains a summary of the support provided to Schools and the associated costs covering the period from the beginning of the Spring Term 2015 through to Spring Term 2016.

4. PROPOSED FUTURE USE OF THE BUDGET

4.1 The biggest threat to schools accessing the financial support for school improvement activity is the growing number of schools choosing not to contribute to the budget or/and the growing number of Primary Academies who may choose not to contribute to this LA fund.. An ever-decreasing budget would limit the scope and scale of any school improvement activity that could be centrally funded from this budget. There are of course many reasons why a school may choose not to contribute to a pot of money, which is centrally held by the Local Authority. The lack of transparency in recent years of how the budget is managed and spent has significantly contributed to this. This paper together with the opportunity to brief both Heads and Chairs of Governors in the Spring term of 2016 will hopefully allow Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors to understand how the budget is being spent to support schools causing concern.

4.2 There are some issues to consider.

- How can we safeguard the future of the Schools Causing Concern Budget?
- How will the budget be managed in the future?
- Who makes decisions around which schools can access the budget and what will be the process of doing this?
- Should schools only be able to access financial support if they choose to pay into it?
- What accountability is there in terms of schools accessing and using the budget?
- Do we need to widen the number of schools able to access the financial support?
- Do we need to call the SCC budget something else?

4.3 The options listed in sections 4.4 to 4.7 below will be put before Tameside Head Teachers at a briefing on February 25th 2016. It may be that further proposals emerge from that discussion.

4.4 Proposal 1 - Funded support is open only to those schools that choose to contribute to the budget.

4.5 Proposal 2 - The fund is renamed as The School Improvement Fund and is made accessible to a wider range of schools. This would enable a preventative, as well as a reactive approach to supporting school improvement in identified schools. This should be linked to the annual evaluation of schools.

4.6 Proposal 3 – Tameside Primary Consortium (TPC) should put forward cluster improvement projects requiring full or partial funding. These projects would require an external evaluation of impact.

4.7 Proposal 4 - How the fund is spent and its impact is reported termly to TPC and annually to all Head Teachers.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Members of the Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of the report and to consider the proposals for future use of this funding.

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Schools Contributing Towards Schools Causing Concern in 2014/15 and 2015/16
Greenfield Primary School and Early Years Centre
Oakfield Primary and Moderate Learning Difficulties Resource Base
Pinfold Primary School
Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School
Stalyhill Junior School
Buckton Vale Primary School
Lyndhurst Community Primary School
Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery
Wild Bank Community School
Millbrook Primary School
Dowson Primary School
Godley Community Primary School
The Heys Primary School
Audenshaw Primary School
Poplar Street Primary School
Russell Scott Primary School
Waterloo Primary School
Aldwyn Primary School
Dane Bank Primary School
Greenside Primary School and Children's Centre
Greswell Primary School and Nursery
Stalyhill Infant School
Yew Tree Community Primary School
Broadoak Primary School
Leigh Primary School
Rosehill Methodist Community Primary School
Ravensfield Primary School
St John's CofE Primary School, Dukinfield
Hurst Knoll St James' Church of England Primary School
Parochial CofE Primary and Nursery School, Ashton-under-Lyne
St James CofE Primary School, Ashton-under-Lyne
Milton St John's CofE Primary School
Micklehurst All Saints CofE Primary School
Mottram CofE Primary School
St Paul's Catholic Primary School
St James Catholic Primary School
St Raphael's Catholic Primary School
Canon Johnson CofE Primary School
St Mary's CofE Primary School
St George's CofE Primary School (Mossley)
Canon Burrows CofE Primary School
St Mary's RC Primary School
St Stephen's RC Primary School
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School
Oakdale School

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Associate Head Teacher Deployment from Tameside Schools

Appendix B

Associate Head Teacher	Associate Head Teacher's School	Spring Term 2015		Summer Term 2015		Autumn Term 2015		Spring Term 2016		Total Cost Up to & Including Spring Term 2016
		Number of days	Cost	Number of days	Cost	Number of days	Cost	Number of days	Cost	
Marie Wright	Parochial	6 days	£2,700			3 days evaluation	£1,350			£4,050
Deidre Reeves	St Mary's RC Primary, Denton	10 days	£4,500	Covered by NLE funding	0	3 days evaluation	£1,350			£5,850
Sue Tickle	Hollingworth	5 days HT; 2 days other staff	£2,650	4 days support to new acting Head Teacher	£1,600	3 days evaluation; 1 day review	£1,800			£6,050
Alec Stephenson	Fairfield Primary	2 days	£900			3 days evaluation; 2 days – senior leaders	£1,750			£2,650
Karen Burns	Inspire	9.5 days Various +	£4,275							£4,275
Deborah Mason	Silver Spring Academy	3.5 days AHT; 6.5 days other staff	£2,875	4 days AHT; 10 days Olivia	£3,600	3 days evaluation; ½ day	£1,575			£8,050

Amanda Stringer	Gorse Hall					3 days evaluation	£1,350			£1,350
Peter Johnson	St Raphael's					3 days evaluation; 1 and ½ day review	£2,025	1 day	£450	£2,475
Scott Lees	Wild Bank									£0
Kathryn Hampson	St Marys CE, Droylsden					3 days evaluation	£1,350	9 days	£4,050	£5,400
Elaine Horridge	Canon Burrows		1575				£1,000	2 days	£900	£3,475
	Greenside				£500					£500
Tameside Schools Total			£19,475		£5,700		£13,550		£5,400	£44,125

The funding above is allocated to the School where the Associate Head Teacher is employed

			Summer Term 2015		Autumn Term 2015		Spring Term 2016		Total Cost Up to & Including Spring Term 2016
Consultant			School	Cost	School	Cost	School	Cost	
			Number of days		Number of days		Number of days		
Consultant 1			3 days	£1,350	2 days	£950	2 days	£900	£3,200
Consultant 2					3 ½ days evaluation support to Lyndhurst	£1,575			£1,575
Consultant 3						£4,500			£4,500
Consultant 4			Primary 3 days	£900	Primary	£2,100	Primary 3 days	£1,000	£4,000
						£300	3 days	£900	£1,200
						£300	4 days	£1,200	£1,500
Consultant 5						£400			£400
Consultant 6						£2,000	Greenfield	£1,200	£3,200
Consultant 7						£6,000			£6,000
Consultant 8					Website reviews	£1,400			£1,400
							SEF One day training and follow up support	£2,500	£2,500
Consultant 9						£2,000	6 days	£2,000	£4,000
						£350	5 days	£1,750	£2,100

					Primary School		2 days	£700	£700
Consultant 10							School Lesson Study with another School	£4,000	£4,000
Consultant 11							School		£0
							Phonics eternal evaluation / Observation of outstanding teaching		£0
TOTAL		£0		£2,250		£21,875		£16,150	£40,275

£19,475		£7,950		£35,425		£21,550	£84,400
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£8,325 of the total costs above were paid in financial year 2014/15 and the remaining £76,075 will be paid by the end of 2015/16

Agenda Item 5

ITEM NO: 5

Report To:	SCHOOLS FORUM
Date:	2 March 2016
Reporting Officer:	Bob Berry – Assistant Executive Director - Learning. Peter Timmins – S151 Officer - Finance.
Subject:	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT UPDATE INCLUDING 2016/17 DE-DELEGATION DECISION
Report Summary:	A report on the arrangements concerning the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2015/16, 2016/17 and future years.
Recommendations:	Members of the Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of the report. Members of the Primary and Secondary sectors are required to vote on the De-delegation of funding for each of the four services in Section 2.15 of the report.
Links to Community Strategy:	Effectively calculated and targeted resources will improve access to a high quality education experience for all our children.
Policy Implications:	Expenditure in line with financial and policy framework.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)	The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring fenced grant solely for the purposes of schools and pupil related expenditure. As such it can only be used within the Schools Budget and is not available for use elsewhere in the Council. There has been no inflation applied to the Dedicated Schools Grant in Tameside by the Department for Education/Education Funding Agency since April 2010. The funding allocated to Tameside is based on the number of pupils on the preceding Autumn Term Pupil Census.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	There is a statutory duty to use resources efficiently and effectively against priorities.
Risk Management:	The correct accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant is a condition of the grant and procedures exist in budget monitoring and the closure of accounts to ensure that this is achieved. These will be subject to regular review.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.

Background Papers

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Stephen Wilde – Head of Resource Management, Directorate of Finance by:



Telephone:0161 342 3726



e-mail: stephen.wilde@tameside.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 A report on the changes to the schools funding process was initially brought to the Schools Forum in May 2012 following consultation by the Department for Education (DFE) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) which started in March 2012. The DFE/EFA have been clear that the new funding formula will:

- Be a precursor to a national funding formula, to be administered by the EFA in the next Comprehensive Spending Review period which is still expected to be from 2015/16;
- Ensure that 'funding follows the pupil' by restricting the ability to direct funding towards school organisation or premises issues;
- Reward schools that attract pupils;
- Ensure transparency, so schools in similar positions receive similar levels of funding;
- Be simpler than the current process; and
- Maximise delegation.

1.2 In this context, and as agreed with the Heads and Chairs of Governors, the priority for the 2013/14 local funding formula was to work within the parameters established by the DfE, whilst trying to secure financial stability for local schools as they moved from one funding regime to another. This approach was continued in 2014/15 and 2015/16 where only minor changes were made to funding unit rates in Tameside.

1.3 Based on summary data released by the DFE/EFA the most notable area in relation to the Tameside funding scheme was that 96.3% of DSG was delegated to Schools in Tameside in 2014/15, which is a high level compared to other authorities nationally.

1.4 Section 2 of the report provides a summary update on DSG funding in 2016/17 and future years.

1.5 Section 3 contains a summary of the DSG allocations from the DFE/EFA and how they have been used in Tameside in 2015/16 and the estimated use in 2016/17.

1.6 Section 4 is an update on the Pre and Post 16 High Needs funding issues considered at the last Forum meeting.

1.7 Section 5 contains a summary of the proposed use of unspent DSG from previous financial years.

1.8 Section 6 contains a request to vote on the annual de-delegation of 4 central services.

2. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT UPDATE 2016/17 & 2017/18 – SCHOOLS BLOCK

2.1 The Schools Block is the largest element of DSG funding which provides the majority of funding for Mainstream Schools, with additional elements potentially being allocated to Mainstream Schools through the Early Years and High Needs blocks. The DFE carried out a "Fairer Schools Funding 2015/16" consultation in relation to proposed changes to the Schools Block element of the DSG earlier this year. As a result of the responses they received to the consultation the DFE agreed to some minor changes to their original proposals, but no significant changes were made to them.

2.2 Over the last three years the DFE have consistently stated that School funding is unfairly allocated. They believe that Schools with similar characteristics in different Local Authority areas are allocated substantially different levels of funding as a result of historic funding allocations. The DFE have used data provided by each Local Authority in relation to the

unit rates used in 2013/14 in their respective local funding formulae to arrive at minimum levels of funding for each Local Authority. These Minimum Funding Levels (MFL) per pupil also include a hybrid area cost adjustment which is intended to reflect prevailing market rates.

2.3 The DFE have then taken the Local Authority specific MFL and multiplied it by the number of Schools Block eligible pupils used to calculate funding in 2014/15 (i.e. October 2013 Census data on children in the age groups from Reception to Year 11) to arrive at an estimated Local Authority level MFL for 2015/16 and compared it to the actual Schools Block funding allocated to each Local Authority in 2014/15. This analysis is summarised in the table within section 2.4 below. The 62 Local Authorities who would receive additional DSG Schools Block funding through the MFL calculation than they did through the previous calculation method were allocated a share of £350m additional funding in 2015/16 and this did not include Tameside.

2.4 **Table 1**

Tameside Indicative MFL and DSG Schools Block Allocation for 2015/16		
1	Indicative MFL Schools Block Total Allocation 2015/16 Issued by DFE Summer 2014	£144.170m
2	Indicative MFL Number of Pupils 2014/15	31,677
3	Indicative MFL Schools Block Allocation 2015/16 Per Pupil	£4,551.34
4	Actual DSG Schools Block Allocation Per Pupil 2014/15	£4,717.42
5	Estimated DSG Schools Block Total Allocation 2015/16	£149.434m
6	Estimated DSG Schools Block Total Allocation 2015/16 in Excess of	£5.264m
7	MFL	3.52%

2.5 The table in section 2.4 above shows that Tameside will not receive any additional DSG Schools Block funding in 2015/16 or 2016/17 through the MFL. The DFE have indicated that there will be no reduction in DSG funding rates for Local Authorities in 2016/17, but the use of the new MFL calculation suggests that there is potential for this position to change from 2017/18 onwards. The DFE has given no indication of whether the 2017/18 Schools Block allocation will be based on MFL rates, but if it was fully implemented by the DFE without any protection then there would be an estimated reduction of £5.264m which equates to 3.52% of the current allocation.

2.6 Due to the scale of the potential reduction in funding from 2017/18 onwards which is summarised above it is considered prudent to provide Schools/Academies with estimates of the worst case budgets that could arise from full implementation of the MFL. Therefore during March 2016 the Council will issue funding estimates for 2017/18 that are based on both the DFE's new MFL proposal and on the basis of the current local funding scheme. The DFE have given no clear indication of what level of Minimum Funding Guarantee will be provided to Schools in 2017/18 or the timescales for implementation and phasing of the MFL based allocations.

2.7 One option in relation to 2015/16 funding was to alter the local funding scheme so that the unit rates allocated were based on the MFL unit rates in table 2.4 above, which would have resulted in a large number of Schools being allocated substantial MFG balances in 2015/16. This was not the recommended proposal of the DFE or Tameside Council and was not implemented. There is no proposal to implement this change in 2016/17 either.

2.8 There is no inflation on the DSG in 2016/17 and this means that the only additional funding through DSG next year relates specifically to increased numbers of children. The DFE/EFA have indicated that they will be launching two consultations over the next few months in relation to further nationalisation of the funding formula for Schools, but they had not shared any details of this at the time of writing this report.

- 2.9 Section 3 of this report summarises the high level use of the DSG in 2015/16 and 2016/17 and a separate report to this meeting provides details of the centrally managed DSG in 2015/16. Based on this information and the lack of clarity from the DFE/EFA about their future proposals the proposal to establish a School Funding Formula Review group to consider options for formula review in 2017/18 and beyond has been put on hold until the DFE/EFA consultation details are released.
- 2.10 There is a significant increase in the projected numbers of children attending Secondary Schools over the next four years, which is expected to be anywhere between 350 and 450 children. In the Tameside 2016/17 Mainstream funding formula the average funding allocated per pupil is £4,088 in the Primary School sector and £5,225 in the Secondary School sector, meaning a difference in funding per pupil between the two sectors of £1,137.
- 2.11 Therefore if the number of children in the Primary sector were to decrease by a similar amount as the increase in the Secondary sector then the increase in funding that would have to be allocated to Schools would be approximately £113,700 for every 100 children and there would be no DSG to support this cost.
- 2.12 Alternatively if the number of children in the Primary sector remained static, but there was an increase in the Secondary sector of 100 children then the increase in funding that would have to be allocated to Schools would be approximately £51,509 for every 100 children and as in the example in 2.11 above, there would be no DSG to support this cost. (The DFE/EFA allocate £4,709.91 per Tameside child in DSG funding regardless of age so in this example the calculation is 100 multiplied by the difference between the funding rate per child of £4,709.91 and the average funding per pupil of £5,225).
- 2.13 The Gains Cap is the DFE/EFA method of funding the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) for Schools. In summary the MFG is a mandatory protection applied by the DFE/EFA which protects School budgets from significant annual variations in their per pupil funding and results in £1.946m of funding being allocated to just under half the Schools in Tameside in 2016/17. The DFE/EFA does not allocate any DSG to fund the MFG and their solution to funding the cost of the MFG is to allow a cap on per pupil gains for Schools who would otherwise have gained from the changes to the funding that started in April 2013.
- 2.14 The Gains Cap has been set at 100% for 2016/17 in order to ensure that the School Funding scheme can be fully funded, which amounts to £1.538m in reduced funding affecting just under half the Schools in Tameside. The level of Gains Cap will be reviewed for 2017/18 once more information about the DFE/EFA proposals described above is available.
- 2.15 De-delegation is the terminology employed by the DFE in relation to Schools Forum representatives of Council Maintained Schools voting on whether to support mandatory charging to all other Council Maintained Schools of certain Council services. The Primary and Secondary sector vote separately in relation to each of the services. The De-delegation rates in 2016/17 are proposed to be the same for 2016/17 as in 2015/16. Members of the Primary and Secondary Maintained sectors respectively are asked to indicate for each sector whether they support the de-delegation of the services listed immediately below.
- Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion Service (BLIS)
 - Equality, Multiculturalism and Access Team (EMAT)
 - Staff Cover for Trade Union Support
 - Schools Contingency

3. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT SUMMARY 2015/16 & 2016/17

3.1 The table below summarises the gross allocations of DSG to Tameside from the current financial year 2015/16 by DFE/EFA funding block.

Table 2

2015/16 DSG Allocations from DFE/EFA	£'000
Schools Block	150,892
Early Years Block	7,401
Pre 16 High Needs Block	13,263
Post 16 High Needs Block	1,469
2 Year Old Block	2,469
NQT Block	48
Early Years Pupil Premium	265
2015/16 Gross DSG Allocation Before DFE/EFA Recoupment	175,807

3.2 The table below summarises the deductions made to the gross DSG allocation in 2015/16 by the DFE/EFA in relation to Mainstream Academies and both Academy and Non Maintained Special School places. It also shows the net allocation of DSG after those deductions.

Table 3

	£'000
2015/16 Gross DSG Allocation Before DFE/EFA Recoupment	175,807
DFE/EFA Recoupment Deduction for Academy Mainstream Schools	-40,223
DFE/EFA Recoupment Deduction for Non Maintained Special School High Needs Places	-227
DFE/EFA Recoupment Deduction for Academy Special School High Needs Places	-660
2015/16 Total DFE Recoupment Deduction	-41,110
2015/16 Net DSG Allocation to Tameside	134,697

3.3 The table below summarises how the current net DSG allocation has been used in Tameside and the estimated shortfall in the 2015/16 grant compared to how it has been used.

Table 4

	£'000
2015/16 Net DSG Allocation to Tameside	134,697
2015/16 Net DSG Allocation in Tameside	
Schools Block	108,133
Early Years Block	7,677
Pre 16 High Needs Block	14,473
Post 16 High Needs Block	2,354
2 Year Old Block	3,008
NQT Block	48
Early Years Pupil Premium	265
2015/16 Total Net DSG Allocations in Tameside	135,958
2015/16 Allocations in Excess of Current 2015/16 DSG Allocation from DFE/EFA	1,261

- 3.4 The table below shows how this shortfall in 2015/16 will be funded from a combination of retrospective allocations of DSG combined with the use of previous years unspent DSG.

Table 5

2015/16 Allocations in Excess of Current 2015/16 DSG Allocation from DFE/EFA	1,261
2015/16 Excess Allocations to be funded from :	
Estimated DSG Grant Debtor	815
Estimated Shortfall in DSG Needed from DSG Carried Forward	446
	1,261

- 3.5 The table below summarises the estimated gross allocations of DSG to Tameside from the current financial year 2016/17 by DFE/EFA funding block. The only significant change in gross funding terms between 2015/16 and 2016/17 is in the Schools Block and directly relates to increased numbers of children from the Autumn Pupil Census 2015.

Table 6

2016/17 DSG Allocations from DFE/EFA	£'000
Schools Block	153,652
Early Years Block	7,401
Pre 16 High Needs Block	13,515
Post 16 High Needs Block	1,469
2 Year Old Block	2,469
NQT Block	47
Early Years Pupil Premium	265
2016/17 Gross DSG Allocation Before DFE/EFA Recoupment	178,818

- 3.6 The table below summarises the estimated deductions made to the gross DSG allocation in 2016/17 by the DFE/EFA in relation to Mainstream Academies and both Academy and Non Maintained Special School places. It also shows the estimated net allocation of DSG after those deductions.

Table 7

	£'000
2016/17 Estimated Gross DSG Allocation Before DFE/EFA Recoupment	178,818
DFE/EFA Recoupment Deduction for Academy Mainstream Schools	-39,533
DFE/EFA Recoupment Deduction for Non Maintained Special School High Needs Places	-12
DFE/EFA Recoupment Deduction for Academy Special School High Needs Places	-740
2016/17 Total DFE Recoupment Deduction	-40,285
2016/17 Net DSG Allocation to Tameside	138,533

- 3.7 The table below summarises how the estimated net DSG allocation has been used in Tameside and the estimated shortfall in the 2016/17 grant compared to how it is expected to be used.

Table 8

	£'000
2016/17 Net DSG Allocation to Tameside	138,533
2016/17 Estimated Net DSG Allocation in Tameside	
Schools Block	111,310

Early Years Block	7,578
Pre 16 High Needs Block	14,541
Post 16 High Needs Block	2,500
2 Year Old Block	3,008
NQT Block	47
Early Years Pupil Premium	265
Total 2016/17 Estimated Net DSG Allocations in Tameside	139,249
Allocations in Excess of Current 2016/17 Estimated DSG Allocation from DFE/EFA	716

3.8 The estimated shortfall in 2016/17 in 3.7 above is all expected to be funded from retrospective allocations of DSG which relate to 2, 3 and 4 year old Nursery funding.

4. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT UPDATE 2015/16 & 2016/17 – HIGH NEEDS PRE 16 AND POST 16 BLOCKS

4.1 A separate report being considered at this meeting describes the projected increased costs in the Post 16 High Needs placements area of £124,143 in 2015/16, which is a reduction of £428,239 in the projection from the previous meeting's report. The difficulty in funding this area of costs is due to a combination of the volume of students accessing the provision and the DFE funding regulations making it easier for providers in this sector to dictate the cost of placements. The funding allocated to Tameside through the DSG for Post 16 High Needs students is approximately £1.469m compared to the current projected costs of £2.354m.

4.2 For this financial year and the next the volume of young people accessing this provision is considerably greater than the number of students the DFE allocated the DSG based on. The DFE funding is also allocated at lower rates than those being charged by Post 16 High Needs providers, which is a position that is replicated across the North West of England. The number of Post 16 students accessing this provision is expected to reduce marginally within 2 years.

4.3 The DFE national funding regime for Pre 16 Special Schools allocates funding via two factors. The first element is £10,000 per place available in Special Schools. The equivalent Place funding value for Pupil Referral Units was previously £8,000 per place but was increased to £10,000 per place from September 2015. In addition to this Schools are allocated Top-up funding based on the needs of the children actually attending the School. The Top-up is calculated in different ways at different Councils, but generally follows one of two themes. The first is a standard Top-up rate per School which is often used for Schools whose children tend to have very similar needs. The second method which is used in Tameside involves placing each child in a Top-up banding based on their assessed needs, which means Schools have children in different Top-up bandings.

4.4 The Finance Officers of Councils across the North West meet several times a year and often discuss and compare publically available information concerning School funding in each of our areas. One of the main areas of comparison over the past 2 years has been the cost of both Pre and Post 16 High Needs placements and the latest set of comparative data on top-up rates has triggered the start of more detailed work with Tameside Special Schools.

4.5 The work that is due to take place will include reviewing how comparable the Top-up bandings are across the North West Councils and trying to ensure that any comparisons are as accurate as possible, as there will be variations in the criteria used for each Council's Top-up bandings. The increasing numbers of children in the Pre 16 Special School sector means that there is insufficient funding to support the Pre 16 places in 2016/17. This is primarily because the amount of DSG funding allocated by the DFE per

child above Nursery age in Tameside is £4,709.91. The average total placement cost (ie Place and Top-up funding) per child in Tameside is actually closer to £21,596 so every additional child with High Needs creates considerable additional funding challenges at an average underfunded cost of £16,886 per child.

5. USE OF UNSPENT DSG FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEARS

- 5.1 Section 3 of this report summarises a shortfall in DSG for 2015/16 and references using unspent DSG from prior years which is held in a School Funding Reserve to part fund that shortfall. The majority of this prior year surplus of DSG is unspent grant relating to nursery provision for 2 year olds. The DFE initially allocated DSG funding for 2 year olds based on their target for take up and did not claw back any unspent funding from this area. This section summarises how it is proposed that this funding is used.
- 5.2 The DFE/EFA expect newly opening Schools such as the Inspire and Discovery Academies to be financially supported during their first few years of operation, due to the diseconomies involved in funding a School which only has one or two year groups of children. The Council agreed a reasonable level of costs with the Academy chain for both Schools reflected a realistic expectation of costs and factored in the estimated funding they would ordinarily receive through the funding formula. This results in Inspire Academy needing an estimated £193,859 and Discovery Academy needing an estimated £609,000. These estimated allocations will be reviewed throughout the first few years of operation to reflect actual funding amounts.
- 5.3 The Pupil Referral Service (PRS) has seen increasing numbers of permanent exclusions over the last few years. Alongside this was the establishment of a High Needs unit for children with Behavioral, Emotional and Social Difficulties which operates alongside the excluded pupil provision. When combined with a significant number of staff being on long term absences this had resulted in escalating costs through a combination of the use of agency staff and external provision for students. A new Principal was appointed in April 2015 who has carried out a substantial review of the way that the service operates and is part way through a restructure of the workforce. Unfortunately the effect of these factors on the service budget has been significant with an annual deficit of £374,075 in 2014/15 and an additional projected deficit of £324,893 in 2015/16. The process of staff reorganisation is still taking place and it is proposed that these costs are funded from the unspent DSG from prior years.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members of the Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of the report.
- 6.2 Members of the Primary and Secondary Maintained sectors respectively are recommended to approve in principle for each sector the de-delegation of service costs in relation to the following services that were referenced in section 2.15 of this report:
- a) Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion (BLIS)
 - b) Equality, Multiculturalism and Access (EMAT)
 - c) Staff Cover for Trade Union Support
 - d) Schools Contingency

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ITEM NO: 6

Report To:	SCHOOLS FORUM
Date:	2 March 2016
Reporting Officer:	Bob Berry – Assistant Executive Director - Learning. Peter Timmins – S151 Officer - Finance.
Subject:	COUNCIL MANAGED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING UPDATE 2015/16
Report Summary:	A report on the centrally managed Dedicated Schools Grant for 2015/16 and proposals to utilise the unspent 2 year old funding carried forward from previous financial years.
Recommendations:	Members of the Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of the report.
Links to Community Strategy:	Effectively calculated and targeted resources will improve access to a high quality education experience for all our children.
Policy Implications:	In line with current policy
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the section 151 officer)	The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring fenced grant solely for the purposes of schools and pupil related expenditure.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	There is a statutory duty to use resources efficiently and effectively against priorities.
Risk Management:	The correct accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant is a condition of the grant and procedures exist in budget monitoring and the closure of accounts to ensure that this is achieved. These will be subject to regular review.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.

Background Papers

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Stephen Wilde – Head of Resource Management, Resource Management, Governance and Resources by :

 Telephone: 0161 342 3726

 e-mail: stephen.wilde@tameside.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Schools Forum agreed in principle to support a number of services in 2013/14 through a combination of De-delegation and buying back into previously centrally retained services using normally delegated funding. For 2014/15 the Secondary sector chose to de-delegate funding for the Trade Union Support Service only, whereas the Primary Sector voted to continue de-delegation for the same services as in 2013/14. For 2015/16 the Secondary sector chose not to de-delegate any funding for central services, whereas the Primary Sector voted to continue de-delegation for the same services as in 2013/14 and 2014/15. For De-delegated Services the Council is able to automatically recover the funding from Maintained Schools, but invoices have to be issued to recover the equivalent funding from Academies. For Buy Back services the Council internally recharges Maintained Schools, but invoices have to be issued to recover the equivalent funding from Academies.

De-delegated Services Maintained Primary Sector 2014/15

- Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion Service (BLIS)
- Equality, Multiculturalism and Access Team (EMAT)
- Staff Cover for Trade Union Support
- Schools Contingency

De-delegated Services Maintained Secondary Sector 2014/15

- Staff Cover for Trade Union Support

De-delegated Services Maintained Primary Sector 2015/16

- Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion Service (BLIS)
- Equality, Multiculturalism and Access Team (EMAT)
- Staff Cover for Trade Union Support
- Schools Contingency

De-delegated Services Maintained Secondary Sector 2015/16

- None

- 1.2 The Council also manages DSG funding to support the following

- Providing the Maintained Schools Admissions service
- Schools Forum support costs
- BSF Affordability contributions – until the affordability review is completed
- High Needs services other than Special Schools and Primary MLD Units
- Early Years funding being delegated to Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers

- 1.3 This report provides details of the financial monitoring position for the 2015/16 financial year for these services at the end of September 2015 in Section 2 and **Appendix A**.

- 1.4 The services in 1.1 above should be funded from a combination of Maintained School and Academy funding as their support is available to all Schools. Since the start of financial year some Schools and Academies have questioned why they are required to contribute towards these services if they do not access them with Contingency and Schools Causing Concern being the main area queried. Whilst it is true that not all Schools will access this funding each year the intention was to follow the principle applied in future years when this funding was set aside for use by whichever Schools were most in need of it. It was not

permitted to centrally retain this funding any longer and therefore it was distributed through the local funding formula via the AWPU factor.

2. COUNCIL MANAGED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 AT THE END OF JANUARY 2016

- 2.1 **Appendix A** provides the financial monitoring position for 2015/16 at the end of January 2016 for the Council services described in Section 1, the Centrally Managed High Needs services and the Early Years funding that is delegated to Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers. **Appendix B** provides a brief description of the services supported by these budgets.
- 2.2 The services are split into 5 sections on **Appendix A** and the first group of De-delegated Services has a collective projected under spend of £73,240, which mostly relates to the Schools Contingency budget. Schools Forum will determine how any under spend against this budget is used next financial year.
- 2.3 The second group of service - Previously Centrally Retained - on **Appendix A** includes an under spend of £89,236 against Primary Schools Causing Concern (SCC) brought forward from 2014/15 which has been added to the budget. It is projected that there will be £127,897 of Primary Schools Causing Concern unspent at the year end and there is a separate report to this meeting concerning this funding.
- 2.4 The current projection of costs on the third section of **Appendix A** called Centrally Retained Services is an under spend of £4,500 which relates to the Schools Forum budget.
- 2.5 The fourth section of **Appendix A** provides a summary of the Centrally Retained High Needs Services. This is the largest area of variation in costs with a projected over spend of £327,549 which primarily relates to a projected over spend against the Pupil Referral Service (PRS) budget of £324,893. This has been caused by a combination of supply cover costs for a number of employees who are on periods of long term absence and the one off costs associated with implementing a revised staffing structure. The last report to Forum had a projected increase in costs relating to Post 16 High Needs students of £552,382, but after discussions with Tameside College this has now reduced to £124,143 on **Appendix A** to this report. This increase in Post 16 costs has effectively been offset by a reduction in Pre 16 placement costs from outside Tameside. A separate report to this meeting proposes funding the deficit on the PRS from unspent DSG from previous financial years.
- 2.6 The final section of **Appendix A** relates to Early Years funding for Private, Voluntary and Independent Nurseries. The revised budget for 2 year old places is based on an updated DFE allocation which is significantly reduced from the report at the last meeting, but the Council expects to spend £538,997 more than this budget based on local projections of cost. This shortfall in current DSG will be retrospectively funded by the DFE once the actual take up of places is confirmed. Similarly the projected increase in costs of £275,924 compared to the latest DFE allocation of funding for 3 and 4 year old places is also expected to be retrospectively funded by the DFE once the actual take up of places is confirmed.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As stated on the report cover.

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Description	Annual Budgeted Expenditure	Actual Expenditure to Date at 31/01/2016	Projected Outturn Expenditure	Projected Outturn Variation (+ is an Under Recovery of Income, - is a Reduction in Costs)	Notes
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Previously Centrally Retained Services Funded by a Combination of De-delegated Income and Traded Income from Schools

Behaviour For Learning and Inclusion Service	632,310	544,507	632,310	0	The current budget reflects the estimated costs of the service. The Council is contributing £125,000 towards these costs and Maintained Primary Schools have contributed £442,789 through de-delegation. £60,473 of the income is dependent on recovering contributions from Academies and Maintained Secondary Schools. The projected costs have been reduced since the last report to Forum to reflect a slightly lower level of income from Academies and Maintained Secondary Schools.
Contingency	128,281	6,919	67,019	-61,262	The current budget is the amount that Primary Schools agreed to de-delegate for 2015/16 plus confirmed contributions from Academies. The main report confirms the proposed allocation of £5,919 to a School to cover the increased cost of the Catering Service cost amendments as agreed in principle at the last Forum meeting. The cost of any professional fees incurred against potential capital projects taking place at Schools may need to be charged to this budget and this is estimated to cost £15,000. In addition to this there is a new proposal to fund £45,100 of Primary School Moderation costs from this budget. If the latest proposals are supported then there will be an estimated £61,262 to carry forward to 2016/17. Once the outturn position is confirmed Schools can determine whether to use

					this balance to support a Contingency fund for next or to request pro rata refunds to all Schools who contributed towards the fund.
Trade Unions - Facilities Agreement	170,889	135,870	170,889	0	The current budget reflects the estimated costs of the service. Maintained Primary Schools have contributed £102,251 through de-delegation. A further £68,638 of the income was recovered by contributions from Academies and Maintained Secondary Schools which reduced the budget available by £1,011 compared to the last report to Forum.
Equality, Multiculturalism and Access Team	117,218	92,953	105,240	-11,978	The current budget reflects the estimated costs of the service. Maintained Primary Schools have contributed £98,902 through de-delegation and £18,316 of the income has been recovered in contributions from Academies and Maintained Secondary Schools. There have been a number of staffing changes in the team during the year which have eventually resulted in an reduction in costs for this financial year of £11,978. Once the outturn position is confirmed Schools can determine whether to use this balance to support a Contingency fund for next or to request pro rata refunds to all Schools who contributed towards the fund.
Total	1,048,698	780,249	975,458	-73,240	

Previously Centrally Retained Services Funded by Buy Back from Schools in 2014/15

Primary Schools Causing Concern	203,972	49,406	76,075	-127,897	The £89,236 under spend against Primary Schools Causing Concern funding from 2014/15 has been added to the budget on this statement. Maintained Schools who contributed towards SCC will automatically be recharged for this service again which totals £114,736. There is a separate report being considered by Forum at this meeting which discusses this budget in more detail.
Consolidation Of Learning Team	17,385	13,501	17,385	0	
Non DFE Licences	3,697	3,697	3,697	0	In 2014/15 this service included payment of the PPL licence for Schools, but in 2015/16 this cost is now part of the DFE managed licences. Therefore the Council recharge for licences is reduced.
DFE Licences	148,017	148,017	148,017	0	This line has been shown for the first time on Forum reports and relates to the DFE/EFA deduction to the DSG in Tameside in relation to the licences they fund centrally for all Schools.
Local Safeguarding Children Board	90,000	75,000	90,000	0	The budget for this service is the targeted contribution from Schools and it is assumed that schools will collectively contribute the full £90,000. Forum agreed to recalculate the method of contribution for 2015/16 to be based on pupil numbers.
Total	463,071	289,621	335,174	-127,897	

Centrally Retained Services for Schools

School Organisation, Admission and Appeals Service	237,726	195,912	237,726	0	The budget is a combination of the annual £158,000 central DSG contribution and anticipated income from Academies of an estimated £79,726.
Forum	5,000	0	500	-4,500	The projected outturn amount is based on previous years expenditure levels.

BSF Affordability	1,919,000	1,919,000	1,919,000	0	There is a shortfall in funding for the PFI contracts and work is taking place with the PFI providers and Schools in PFI contract buildings to close this gap. If the funding gap is reduced then it would free up funding to allocate to Schools.
Total	2,161,726	2,114,912	2,157,226	-4,500	

Centrally Retained High Needs Services for Schools

Specific Learning Difficulties	75,000	53,500	70,120	-4,880	The costs of the team are expected to be £4,880 than the funding initially allocated from DSG due to a slight reduction in the hours worked by a member of the team.
SEN Assessment, Review and Monitoring	58,240	48,533	58,240	0	This is a contribution towards the cost of the SEN Assessment, Review and Monitoring team.
SEN Support for Allocation to Mainstream Schools	372,000	403,663	403,663	31,663	The costs in this area relate to allocating additional funding for children with SEN to Mainstream Schools based on provision map data supplied to the SEN Assessment, Review and Monitoring team. Further allocations will be made throughout the year. £28,000 of the budget in this area has been transferred to the CLASS service to fund the costs of an additional member of staff being managed by CLASS, who is supporting a child with Autism who is attending a mainstream School.
Communication, Language and Autistic Spectrum Support	748,600	613,707	748,600	0	£28,000 of the budget from the SEN Support budget has been transferred to the CLASS service to fund the costs of an additional member of staff being managed by CLASS, but who is supporting a child with Autism who is attending a mainstream School.
Sensory Support Service	889,180	716,083	889,180	0	The income budget is based on £639,034 of central High Needs DSG funding and income from Linden Road Academy of £109,566.

Pupil Referral Service	2,603,630	2,446,828	2,928,523	324,893	This estimated budget is based on £2.25m of DSG funding and an estimate of income from other Schools in relation to permanently excluded pupils of £267k, plus Pupil Premium grants. A review of the service is being carried out by the new Head of Service who started in post in April 2015. It is proposed that unspent 2 year old free entitlement funding from previous financial years is used to offset this cost.
Pre 16 Independent and Other Local Authority Special School Placements	1,200,000	887,694	1,065,233	-134,767	The extension of specialist ASC provision at Samuel Laycock has reduced the estimated cost of external placements and results in a projected under spend against the budget of £134,767
Post 16 Independent and Other Local Authority Special School Placements	2,229,665	1,178,607	2,353,808	124,143	The costs of Post 16 provision have increased from the previous year primarily due to the number of young adults accessing the extended range of provision. (ie up to the age of 25 rather than 18). The DFE/EFA do not allocate sufficient funding to support the cost Post 16 placements in Tameside. Discussions have taken place with Tameside College over the last few months which have reduced the estimated cost reported to the last Forum meeting by £428,239.
Hospital School	50,000	75,775	85,000	35,000	The costs incurred in the last two years against this budget have been minimal, but at one stage earlier this year there were 7 children attending the provision. This has resulted in an estimated additional £55,000 of costs above the current budget.
Nursery Aged SEN Support for Allocation to Schools & Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers	50,000	838	1,497	-48,503	The costs in relation to Nursery aged children with High Needs have been very low this year and based on current projections there will be £48,503 of this funding remaining at the end of the year.
Total	8,276,315	6,425,229	8,603,864	327,549	

Early Years Allocations to Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector (PVI) Providers

3 and 4 year Old Free Entitlement	3,340,005	2,466,926	3,615,929	275,924	The budget reflects the DFE estimate of funding, whereas the projected outturn reflects the Council estimate of actual costs. No outturn variation is being project here because the DFE/EFA will retrospectively correct this element of the grant to reflect the numbers of children actually accessing the 3 and 4 year old free entitlement in 2015/16.
New 2 Year Old Free Entitlement	2,468,813	2,047,510	3,007,810	538,997	The budget reflects the DFE estimate of funding, whereas the projected outturn reflects the Council estimate of actual costs. No outturn variation is being project here because the DFE/EFA will retrospectively correct this element of the grant to reflect the numbers of children actually accessing the 2 year old free entitlement in 2015/16.
Total	5,808,818	4,514,436	6,623,739	814,921	

Council Managed Service	Description
De-delegated Services	
Behaviour For Learning and Inclusion Service	Provision of Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion Service which is available to all mainstream schools, early year's settings and non-maintained nurseries to provide advice, consultation and additional support to children and young people whose additional need is identified as a social, emotional and/or behavioural. The service provides specialist support of pupils with a statement of EBSD (statutory requirement), individual interventions at the 3 stages of the SEN code of Practice, sixth day cover which is statutory provision for primary aged children given a fixed term exclusion in excess of 5 days etc.
Equality, Multiculturalism and Access Team	The service is available to all schools and early-years settings. EMAT informs schools on inclusive practice with particular emphasis on curriculum access, language for learning, English as an Additional Language and Equalities. The team supports schools with issues relating to Black and Minority Ethnic achievement and language for learning, for all stages of English proficiency, from beginners to fluent learners.
Trade Unions - Facilities Agreement	Provision of trade union support to schools which includes the negotiation of policies and procedures on behalf of school members which enable governing bodies to adopt these policies and procedures without individual consultation with their employees. The service also manages case loads in conjunction with schools and provides input into staff reorganisation procedures. The service also provides local advice and support to Head Teachers via their individual associations.
Contingency	This funding is used to fund unexpected issues which occur after the Schools Budget Share has been set. (For example Business Rates increases or temporary accommodation requirements that are not funded from the Growth factor)

Buy Back Services	
Schools Causing Concern	Provision of support to schools either placed or potential to be placed in a category by Ofsted. The proposed budget will be managed and monitored by Head Teachers involved in the self improving schools model.
Consolidation Of Learning Team	Provision of advice and support to schools and other professionals on a range of cultural issues, e.g. school policies and procedures, safeguarding, referrals to other agencies, transition issues and children missing education, use of common processes and casework discussions. The service includes support for gypsy, roma, traveller, asylum seeker and refugee admissions to schools
Local Safeguarding Children's Board Contribution	The purpose of the Tameside Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB) is to Coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and to ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes
Non DFE Licences	This relates to the licences for the Consortium of Local Education Authorities For the Provision of Science Equipment (CLEAPs)
Other Council Managed DSG	
School Organisation, Admission and Appeals Service	Provision of coordinated school admission and appeals service to all schools within the borough
Schools Forum	Provision of support to the schools forum - room hire, refreshments
BSF - Affordability Contribution	Contribution to the affordability of the existing BSF programmes in the borough.

Specific Learning Difficulties Support	The Specific Learning Difficulties Advisory Teachers Team provides a service to all schools and early years settings, dealing with issues related to Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Dyscalculia. The team's work is focussed upon developing inclusive practice to meet the needs of these learners across the age phases as recommended in the Rose Review (DCSF 2009). This support includes specialist teaching of children with specific learning difficulties (statutory requirement) ; assessment, consultation , advice and staff training. A review of the service will be carried out in 2011/2012 which may lead to elements of the service becoming a traded option for schools. Details of the potential trading options for the service are included in the schools traded services brochure.
SEN Support for Allocation to Mainstream Schools	Provision of support to mainstream schools who have children with additional needs assessed as being greater than the £6,000 of Notional SEN.
Communication, Language and Autistic Spectrum Support	Provision of Communication, Language and Autism Spectrum Support (CLASS) Service which is available to all mainstream schools, early years settings and non-maintained nurseries to provide advice, consultation and additional support to children and young people whose additional need is identified as a Social Communication difficulty (including ASD) or a Specific Language Impairment.
Sensory Support Service	Provision of support to children with visual and hearing impairment. The support is provided to children and families at home, in early years placements, in schools and other educational settings and if required in post 16 placements.
Pupil Referral Service	The Pupil Referral Service meets the Local Authority statutory duty to provide "suitable education" for children who are unable to attend school because of illness, injury or exclusion. The service currently makes this provision on three main sites

Pre and Post 16 Independent and Other Local Authority School and College Placements	SEN provision (in mainstream schools) / places (in special schools) for pupils with statements of SEN, as required by legislation, where a pupil attends a school maintained by another local authority. Placements in these schools are usually as a result of parental preference. In addition this budget funds the placement of pupils with statements of SEN attending independent / non-maintained special schools. Placements in these schools, which can be residential / non residential, 38 / 52 weeks a year, are in the main because the Council does not maintain the specialist provision to meet the significant / complex needs of this small group of children, although the SEN & Disability Tribunal has directed the Council to make these placements in a small number of cases
Hospital School	The majority of Hospital School placement costs for Tameside and neighbouring authorities are in private provision at the Priory in Bury.
Nursery Aged SEN Support for Allocation to Schools & Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers	This funding is used to support the cost of Nursery aged children who do not attend the Oakdale/Acorn Special School Nursery.
3 and 4 year Old Free Entitlement for Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers	This budget is used to allocate funding to Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers in relation to the Free Entitlement Funding for 3 and 4 year olds on the same basis as it is allocated to Primary Schools with Nurseries.
New 2 Year Old Free Entitlement Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers	This budget is used to allocate funding to Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers in relation to the Free Entitlement Funding for disadvantaged 2 year olds.