

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>SCHOOLS FORUM</b>
<b>Date:</b>	18 October 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ian Duncan – Assistant Executive Director – Finance Bob Berry – Assistant Executive Director – Learning
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>COUNCIL MANAGED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING UPDATE 2015/16</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	A report on the centrally managed Dedicated Schools Grant for 2015/16.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Members of the Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of the report.</li> <li>2. Primary School members are required to vote on the recommendation to support the proposal to allocate the unspent 2015/16 funding totaling £122,887 pro rata to the original contribution made by each School for the Contingency, Trade Union Support and Equality Multiculturalism and Access Team (EMAT) services. Secondary School members cannot vote on this issue as it specifically relates to Schools who de-delegated funding.</li> <li>3. Primary School members are also required to vote on the recommendation to support the proposal to allocate the unspent 2015/16 funding from the Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion Service (BLIS) of £17,829 to support the projected shortfall in income for that service in 2016/17. Again Secondary School members cannot vote on this issue as it specifically relates to Schools who de-delegated funding.</li> <li>4. Members of the Schools Forum are requested to vote on the recommendation to support the proposal to use the unspent 2015/16 funding of £5,000 to support the equivalent budget in 2016/17.</li> </ol>
<b>Links to Community Strategy:</b>	Effectively calculated and targeted resources will improve access to a high quality education experience for all our children.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	In line with current policy
<b>Financial Implications:</b> (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.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	Dedicated School Grant sets out a framework for Schools Forum to agree the use of resources to efficiently and effectively deliver 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 :



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## 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 under spend of £140,716 at year end. Schools Forum must determine how the under spend against each of the de-delegated budget areas is used in the next financial year. The report **Appendix A** contains recommendations to allocate the unspent funding pro rata to the original contribution made by each School for the Contingency, Trade Union Support and Equality, Multiculturalism and Access Team (EMAT) services. **Appendix A** also proposes allowing the Council to use the unspent £17,829 from the Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion Service (BLIS) to partially support the significant shortfall in income for that service being projected in 2016/17. The Schools Forum vote on these issues will need to be taken only by the Primary sector as they de-delegated these service costs, but views are sought from the Secondary sector as well where they chose to purchase those services.
- 2.3 The second group of service - Previously Centrally Retained - on **Appendix A** has £98,049 of unspent School Improvement Fund (formerly Schools Causing Concern) budget at the year end. At present only Primary age Schools contribute towards this fund and therefore Colleagues in the School Performance and Standards Unit will agree with the Tameside Primary Consortium how the funding will be used.
- 2.4 The third section of **Appendix A** called Centrally Retained Services has unspent funding of £5,000 which relates to the Schools Forum budget. It is recommended that this funding is used to support any Forum related costs in 2016/17.
- 2.5 The fourth section of **Appendix A** provides a summary of the Centrally Retained High Needs Services. This is the group of services with the greater level of variation in costs resulting in a net increase in costs of £3,662. This will be funded from the unspent 2 year old funding carried forward from 2014/15.
- 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 £389,552 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 £177,180 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.