

Report To: **SCHOOLS FORUM**

Date: 17 October 2017

Reporting Officer: Tom Wilkinson – Assistant Director - Finance.

Subject: **COUNCIL MANAGED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING UPDATE 2017/18**

Report Summary: A report on the centrally managed Dedicated Schools Grant for 2017/18.

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 financial and policy framework.

Financial Implications: The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring fenced grant solely for the purposes of schools and pupil related expenditure.
(Authorised by the Section 151 officer)

Legal Implications: There is a statutory duty to use resources efficiently and effectively against priorities
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

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 **TO 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 Christine Mullins – Finance Business Partner, Financial Management, Governance, Resources and Pensions by :

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1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 For 2016/17 the Secondary sector chose to only de-delegate funding for the Trade Union Support service, whereas the Primary Sector voted to continue de-delegation for both the Trade Union Support and Contingency services. The same scenario was adopted by the Secondary and Primary sector for 2017/18. For De-delegated Services the Council is able to recover the funding from Maintained Schools automatically, 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.
- 1.2 The Council also manages DSG funding to support the following
- Schools Admissions service
 - Schools Forum support
 - Retained Duties
 - High Needs services other than Special Schools and Primary MLD Units
 - Early Years
- 1.3 This report provides details of the financial monitoring position for the 2017/18 financial year for these services at the end of September 2017 in Section 2 and **Appendix A**.

2. COUNCIL MANAGED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BUDGET MONITORING 2017/18 AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2017

- 2.1 **Appendix A** provides the financial monitoring position for 2017/18 at the end of September 2017 for the Council services described in Section 1, the Centrally Managed High Needs services and Early Years funding. **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 relates to De-delegated Services. These services are projected to spend at budgeted level.
- 2.3 The second section of **Appendix A** provides details on Previously Centrally Retained services. There are no current projected variations for these services.
- 2.4 The services on the third section of **Appendix A** called Centrally Retained Services are all projected to spend at the budgeted level.
- 2.5 The fourth section of **Appendix A** provides a summary of the Centrally Retained High Needs Services. The SEN team has updated the majority of bandings for children who have moved to new schools in September 2017. At present the allocation of funding for children with SEN to Mainstream Schools is £204,862 greater than budget. A full review of high needs spend is currently in progress. This will advise the action required to fund the additional funding mentioned above.
- 2.6 The final section of **Appendix A** relates to Early Years funding. From September 2017 the free entitlement funding for 3 and 4 year olds will be processed by the Free Entitlement Funding Team within the Education Service of the Council. All Early Years Funding is being reported in this section. The budget for 2 year old places is based on the DFE allocation of funding for this area, but the Council currently expects to spend £133,478 less than this budget based on local projections of cost. This surplus in current DSG is expected to be retrospectively adjusted by the DFE once the actual take up of places is confirmed. The budget for 3 & 4 year old places is based on the initial DFE allocation of funding for this area, but the Council expects to spend £69,686 more than this budget

based on local projections of cost. This deficit is 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.