

REPORT FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Date of meeting:	17th January 2020
2.	Title:	2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant
3.	Directorate:	Finance and Customer Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update to Schools Form members as to the 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant funding for Rotherham along with proposals on the formula for allocation of the schools block and the central schools block element of DSG.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That members of Schools Forum note the content of the report.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

To ensure members are aware of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding information as set out by the Department for Education.

To ensure compliance with the School & Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2017.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department for Education issued the final version of the Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT) to local authorities, with the autumn 2019 pupil census information shortly before Christmas. The local authority has until 21st January 2020 to submit the final version back to the Department for Education.

In October 2019 the local authority sought consultation with schools, academies and Schools Forum on the local funding formula decisions as set out in the regulations and the tables and appendix within this report contain summary information on the impact of those decisions.

5. INITIAL DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT ALLOCATIONS

On 19th December 2019, the Department for Education issued the indicative DSG allocations for the 2020/21 financial year.

For Rotherham, the initial allocations are;

Table 1.

	Initial Allocation
Schools block (both schools and academies)	£197.068m
Central schools services block	£1.136m
Early Years block	£17.624m
High Needs block	£36.854m
TOTAL	£252.682m

The allocations above are prior to;

- Updates to the funding for three and four year olds from the January 2020 & January 2021 census
- Updates to the early years pupil premium allocations

6. SCHOOLS BLOCK

The final allocation is mainly based on funding rates of £4,186.71 for primary children (£4,001.11 in 2019/20) and £5,604.92 for secondary children (£5,494.74 in 2019/20) as at the October 2019 pupil census counts plus actual amounts for premises related costs and historic pupil growth.

The October 2019 census count shows that there are a total number of pupils across the borough of 39,742; this is an increase of 83 (-311 in primary & + 394 in secondary) pupils from the October 2018 census count.

From the census data we have identified that 59 schools/academies have seen overall decreases in pupils, 5 have remained static and 46 have seen an overall increase in the number of pupils on roll.

As noted previously, MFG protection is on a per pupil basis – it does not safeguard against overall reductions in the numbers of pupils within a school/academy.

Tables 2 and 3 below shows that the overall school block funding allocation has increased from £189.875m in 2019/20 to £197.068m in 2020/21.

As agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on the 22nd November 2019 a request to transfer 1.5% from the school block to the high needs block was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 28th November 2019. If this request does not gain approval 0.5% will be transferred, therefore the local authority is required to complete 2 versions of the Authority Pro-forma Tool (APT)

Summary position in respect of DSG schools block allocation

Table 2- Successful Disapplication request to transfer 1.5%

	2019/20	2020/21	Difference	Comments
Schools block allocation	£189.88m	£197.07m	£7.19m	83 additional pupils & increase in funding rates
Pupil Growth fund	£479k	£700k	£221k	Agreed at November meeting
Transfer to High Needs	£2.85m	£2.96m	£0.11m	
Amount of Schools Block funding allocated through formula	£186.55m	£193.41m	£6.86m	83 additional pupils & increase in funding rates
% of total DSG schools block allocated through formula	98.5%	98.5%		

Table 3 - Unsuccessful Disapplication request - transfer 0.5%

	2019/20	2020/21	Difference	Comments
Schools block allocation	£189.88m	£197.07m	£7.19m	83 additional pupils & increase in funding rates
Pupil Growth fund	£479k	£700k	£221k	Agreed at November meeting
Transfer to High Needs	£2.85m	£985k	-£1.85m	
Amount of Schools Block funding allocated through formula	£186.55 m	£195.38m	£8.83m	83 additional pupils & increase in funding rates
% of total DSG schools block allocated through formula	98.5%	99.5%	-	

Annex A to this report provides further details to the rates that are being applied to the individual formula funding factors and how these have changed in comparison to 2019/20 rates. Table 4 shows those rates applied should the 1.5% transfer be approved, although there may be some slight changes to these in order to allocate the Schools Block in full. These changes are in line with the previous decisions reached in respect of the gradual transition to the national funding formula rates. The rates applied will also vary if the disapplication request is unsuccessful, this is currently being worked on and will be presented to Forum on the 17th January meeting.

To date the Education & Skills Funding Agency has not made a final decision regarding the local authority's request to transfer 1.5%,

7. CENTRAL SERVICES SCHOOLS BLOCK (CSSB)

The table below compares the CSSB allocation and agreed 2020/21 budgets with 2019/20 .

Table 6

	2019/20	2020/21	Difference	Comments
Central services schools block allocation	£1.11m	£1.13m	£20k	Increased pupil numbers & 2% rate increase
Admissions	£164k	£167k	£3k	Agreed at November meeting
National copyright licences	£259k	£264k	£5k	Notified by DfE
Former ESG	£686k	£698k	£12k	Agreed at November meeting
Schools Forum	£3.18k	£3.18k	-	Agreed at November meeting

8. ADDITIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING FOR 2020/21.

The following arrangements for pupil premium and other school grants in 2020 to 2021 were announced on 19th December 2019 with further details available in 2020:

- **Teachers' pay grant** will continue in the 2020 to 2021 financial year, as set out in in the teachers' pay grant methodology document.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-pay-grant-methodology/teachers-pay-grant-methodology>
- **Teachers' pension employer contribution grant** will continue in the 2020 to 2021 financial year, as set out in TPECG methodology document.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teachers-pension-employer-contribution-grant-tpecg/pension-grant-methodology>
- **Pupil premium** rates for the 2020 to 2021 financial year will be confirmed in the new year.
- Information about all other grants will follow in the new year.

9. Name and contact details

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