

## REPORT FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Date of meeting:	15th January 2021
2.	Title:	2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant
3.	Directorate:	Finance and Customer Services

### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update to Schools Forum members as to the 2021/22 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 2020 pupil census information shortly before Christmas. The local authority has until 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to submit the final version back to the Department for Education.

In October 2020 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 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the Department for Education issued the indicative DSG allocations for the 2021/22 financial year.

For Rotherham, the initial allocations are;

Table 1.

	Initial Allocation
Schools block (both schools and academies)	£211.310m
Central schools services block	£1.371m
Early Years block	£17.942m
High Needs block	£42.159m
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£272.782m</b>

## 6. SCHOOLS BLOCK

The final allocation is mainly based on funding rates of £4,525.65 for primary children (£4,186.71 in 2020/21) and £5,997.26 for secondary children (£5,604.92 in 2020/21) as at the October 2020 pupil census counts plus actual amounts for premises related costs and historic pupil growth.

The October 2020 census count shows that there are a total number of pupils across the borough of 39,695; this is a decrease of 47 (+202 in primary & - 155 in secondary) pupils from the October 2019 census count.

From the census data we have identified that 64 schools/academies have seen overall decreases in pupils, 7 have remained static and 40 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 £197.068m in 2020/21 to £211.31m in 2021/22. The increased allocation is due to an increase in funding rates and the funding previously allocated through the teachers' pay and pensions grant now added into the Dedicated Schools Grant.

As agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on the 20th November 2020 a request to transfer 1.5% from the school block to the high needs block was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 23rd November 2020. 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%**

	2020/21	2021/22	Difference	Comments
Schools block allocation	£197.07m	£211.31m	£14.24m	increase in funding rates & former Teachers Pay/Pensions Grant
Pupil Growth fund	£700k	£280k	£420k	Agreed at November meeting
Falling Rolls Fund	-	£50k	£50k	Agreed at November meeting
Transfer to High Needs	£2.96m	£3.04m	£0.08m	
Amount of Schools Block funding allocated through formula	£193.41m	£207.94m	£14.53m	increase in funding rates & Pay/Pensions Grant
% of total DSG schools block allocated through formula	98.5%	98.5%		

**Table 3 - Unsuccessful Disapplication request - transfer 0.5%**

	2020/21	2021/22	Difference	Comments
Schools block allocation	£197.07m	£211.31m	£14.24m	increase in funding rates & former Teachers Pay/Pensions Grant
Pupil Growth fund	£700k	£280k	£420k	Agreed at November meeting
Falling Rolls Fund	-	£50k	£50k	Agreed at November meeting
Transfer to High Needs	£2.96m	£1.01k	£1.95m	
Amount of Schools Block funding allocated through formula	£193.41 m	£209.97m	£16.56m	increase in funding rates & Pay/Pensions Grant and reduction in top slice from schools block
% 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 2020/21 rates. Table 4 shows those rates applied should the 1.5% transfer be approved. 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 as indicated in Table 5.

To date the Secretary of State 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 2021/22 budgets with 2020/21 .

**Table 6**

	2020/21	2021/22	Difference	Comments
Central services schools block allocation	£1.13m	£1.37m	£240k	increase in funding rates & Pay/Pensions Grant
Admissions	£167k	£182k	£15k	Agreed at November meeting
National copyright licences	£264k	£263k	-£1k	Notified by DfE
Former ESG	£698k	£757k	£59k	Agreed at November meeting
Centrally employed teachers pay and pensions	-	£164k	£164k	
Schools Forum	£3k	£4k	£1k	Agreed at November meeting

## 8. PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING FOR 2021/22.

The following arrangements for pupil premium in 2021 to 2022 were announced on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020:

- From April 2021, pupil premium allocations will be calculated based on the number of eligible pupils recorded by schools in their in October 2020 census.
- Pupil premium and service rates will remain unchanged for the 2021 to 2022 financial year.

## 9. Name and contact details

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