

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	Meeting:	Schools Forum
2.	Date:	24th June 2015
3.	Title:	Proposed Total Schools Budget 2015/16 (Estimate)
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary

The report gives details of the proposed Total Schools Budget for 2015/16 based on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) settlement received from the DfE (Department for Education) and the Estimated Education Funding Agency (EFA) settlement.

6. Recommendations

That Schools Forum agrees the budget as set out at Appendix A.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1.1 The total estimated grant allocation from the Department for Education and Education Funding Agencies for the 2015/16 financial year to fund the Total Schools budget for Rotherham is £ 220,546,522.

This is before adjusting for recoupment in respect of Rotherham Academies. The amount of recoupment is estimated to be £81,144,843. After further adjustments and carry forwards of estimated balances from 2014/15 financial year the estimated total funding available for 2015/16 is £ 139,441,555.

Details are summarised below:

Financial Year 2015/16	£	£
Total Grant Allocation (DfE and EFA)	220,546,522	220,546,522
Less:		
Estimated Academy recoupment	81,144,843	81,144,843
Estimated Additions to the grant allocation:		
EFA 6 th Form Funding for Special Schools	943,301	
DfE – Additional High Needs Top Up Funding	226,461	
DfE – High Needs Places Growth Pre 16	75,978	
DfE – High Needs Places Growth Post 16	7,649	1,253,389
Estimated Reductions to the grant allocation:		
EFA Direct funding of Pre and Post 16 places	1,387,414	1,387,414
Estimated Adjusted Grant Allocation		139,267,654
Estimated Balance Brought Forward from 2014/15 Financial Year		173,901
Total Estimated Funding available for the Financial Year		139,441,555

A breakdown of the funding allocation by block is given on Appendix A.

Details of the proposed Total School Budget for the financial year are given on Appendix B.

7.1.2 Movement of Funding Between the Blocks

Due to the on-going pressure on the High Needs block it has been necessary to move £2.954m of funding from the Schools block and £432k from the Early Years block.

The movement of funding from Early Years Block to High Needs block is possible as there has been a lower take up in 2014/15 in the number of 2 year old places than originally estimated.

The movement of funding from Schools block to High Needs block still allows the payment of the Minimum Funding Guarantee for each school as required by the DfE (i.e. year on year no school will lose more than 1.5% funding per pupil in their delegated budget share). This action results in an increase of a maximum of 0.71% per pupil for those schools who gained.

The on-going SEND review will consider, in partnership with schools, a service and structural redesign as part of the new CYPS structure with the aim of delivering improvement in outcomes for children and their families and to meet legislative requirements. The approach will be the development of an integrated multi-agency, multi-disciplinary, social care, education and health service.

Total Estimated Balance Brought Forward from the 2014/15 Financial Year (Forecast Outturn Position)

	£
Schools Block (under spend)	509,012
Early Years Block (under spend)	752,889
High Needs Block (over spend)	1,088,000
Estimated Net Forecast Outturn position carried forward to 2015/16 (under spend)	173,901

Use of Under spends

Schools Block: £509,012 to be allocated to the rates budget based on projected valuation estimates.

Early Years Block:

£432,889 Transferred to High Needs Block.

£320,000 carried forward to 2015/16 financial year early years block.

7.1.3

High Needs Block

Over Spend Position

The current estimated over spend on High Needs block is £1,088,000. This is a decrease of £655k since the last reported forecast outturn position at the end of January 2015. This has reduced as a result of the correction of the allocation of expenditure and income relating to placements for children with a social care need. The resulting impact is an increase on the Children and Young People's Services Directorate forecast outturn position.

For 2015/16 the high needs budget allocation for complex needs placements has been based on the estimated placements in line with the above adjustment.

Special School and Alternative provision placement and top up allocations are still being worked on with individual schools in accordance with assessments for individual children. As such a detailed paper showing the place and top up information for each setting will be presented at a later meeting.

8. Finance

The Financial issues are covered in 7. Above.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Principal risks and uncertainties relate to the 'needs led' nature of High Needs Block and Early Years Block budgets.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- We will focus on all children, young people and their families to improve their qualifications and skills and for them to be economically active through lifelong learning

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Education Funding Agency: Schools Revenue Funding 2015/16 Operational Guide.

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