

## Briefing note

# Item 2b Annex B – Central Schools Expenditure, Growth and De-delegation.

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## 1 Purpose

1.1 To advise the Schools Forum of the central school's expenditure, growth and de-delegation for the financial year 2025/26.

## 2 Recommendations

2.1 To **note** the expenditure budgets for 2025/26 to be funded from the Central School Services Block (CSSB), as agreed at the 12 December 2024 Schools Forum meeting.

2.2 To **note** the allocations from the Growth Fund for 2025/26 funded from the Schools Block; £0.563m in the primary sector and £0.472m in the secondary sector (the weighted pupil numbers and growth fund criteria were approved at the 17 October 2024).

2.3 To **note** the delegated budgets for 2025/26 to be funded from the Schools Block as agreed at the 17 October 2024 schools forum meeting.

2.4 That the schools forum **approves** the additional pupil number adjustment required to support growing schools for 2025/26 (section 4).

## 3 Central Expenditure (other than high needs)

3.1 The School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2024 restrict the funding that LAs can hold centrally. To support the move to the national funding formula, the DfE separated the schools block into two blocks, the Schools Block and the Central School Services Block (CSSB). Growth will remain funded from the schools block.

## 4 Central Services Schools Block

4.1 The LA **may** include the following budgets in their central services with the agreement of the Schools Forum. The DfE will adjudicate where the Schools Forum does not agree with the LA's proposal.

4.1 A total budget of **£2.212m** is required, this will be funded from the 2025/26 allocation of £2.166m, the expected b/fwd balance from 2024/25 of £0.009m and a re-charge to the high needs block of £0.047m to reflect their use of these services (as was the case in 2024/25), this will leave a c/fwd balance of £0.010m.

- **Admissions** – £0.815m has been allocated to support the operation of the system of admissions of pupils to schools and in relation to appeals. This is an increase of £0.050m to reflect inflationary costs and pay awards across the service.
- **Schools Forum** – £0.039m has been allocated to cover the LA's statutory functions on establishing, maintenance of and consultation with the Schools Forum. This is an increase of £0.001m to reflect inflationary costs and pay awards.
- **Former ESG Retained Duties** – £0.720m will be held centrally by the LA to support central services that were formerly (prior to 2017/18) funded by the Education Services Grant (ESG). This includes the following budgets held centrally by the LA:
  - Education welfare, including school attendance £0.059m.
  - Asset management including management of the capital programme £0.157m.
  - Statutory and regulatory duties, including planning for the education service and provision of information £0.259m.
  - Formulation and review of the school funding formula, monitoring of expenditure and internal audit review £0.230m.
  - SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education) £0.015m.
- **Miscellaneous** – £0.034m this covers school trips and school closure texting service.
- **Centrally Employed Teachers Pension Contributions** - £0.226m which covers the increased pension costs for centrally employed teachers.
- **CLA and MPA Licence Fees** - £0.378m the LA **must** include the following budget in their central school's expenditure budgets, although the Schools Forum should be consulted. These rates are set by the DfE annually.

## 5 Growth Fund – Schools Block

5.1 Funding for growing schools (including any pre-opening and weighted pupil adjustments for pupils not yet on census) must be funded from the schools block with the agreement of the schools forum. The DfE will adjudicate where the schools forum does not agree with the LA's proposal.

5.2 The weighted pupil numbers and the growth fund criteria for new schemes from 2025/26 were agreed at the Schools Forum meeting on 17 October 2024 (Item 2c Annex C), however an incorrect number of places was included for Watling Primary School which should have read 240 places rather than 180 places, to give a total of 585 primary places and 300 secondary places. The final budget will include 120 secondary unallocated place and 120 primary unallocated places as per the draft budget.

- **Growth Fund** – The budget has been set at £1.035m for 2025/26. The details of all the growth fund allocation are set out in Annex B1. This annex also includes the full cost of growth for pupils to be funded via the formula.

## 6 De-delegated budgets

- 6.1 Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the funding formula but can be de-delegated for maintained primary and secondary schools with school's forum approval.
- 6.2 The budgets to be de-delegated for facilities time, school improvement and schools insurance along with the basis on which the funding is being taken out of the formula were agreed at the schools forum meeting on 17 October 2024.

Since this time the rate for the Risk Protection Arrangement for Schools (RPA) has been set by the DfE at £27 per pupil per annum for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

The agreement at schools forum in October 2024 for insurance, was that de-delegation would be applied to maintained primary schools if the rate set by Zurich was lower than the RPA rate. However, we have not yet received confirmation of the Zurich rate, as such we have included de-delegation based on the RPA rate of £27. If the Zurich rate is confirmed before the authority pro-forma tool (APT) submission date to the DfE of 22 January 2024 and is below the RPA rate, our submission will be revised to reflect the lower de-delegation rate, if the Zurich rate is not confirmed until after our submission date or the rate is higher than the RPA rate, we will not include this in our submission, and the cost of insurance will be invoiced to schools on a traded service basis.

An update will be confirmed to schools with the publication of the draft school budget shares no later than the end of January 2024.

- 6.3 Any unspent de-delegated funding at the year-end may be carried forward to the following year for the purpose for which it was originally de-delegated or redistributed back to schools if the service will no longer be continuing.

<b>Central Services</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget £m</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast £m</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £m</b>	<b>Budget Change £m</b>
Admissions	0.765	0.765	0.815	0.050
Schools Forum	0.038	0.038	0.039	0.001
ESG Retained Duties	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.000
CLA and MPA Licence Fees	0.308	0.308	0.378	0.070
Miscellaneous	0.031	0.031	0.034	0.003
Teachers Pension Centrally Employed Teachers	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000
Teachers Pay and Pension Centrally Employed Teachers	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.113
Contribution from High Needs Block	(0.047)	(0.047)	(0.047)	0.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.928</b>	<b>1.928</b>	<b>2.165</b>	<b>0.237</b>
<b>Growth</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget £m</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast £m</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £m</b>	<b>Budget Change £m</b>
Growth Fund - Primary	0.919	0.758	0.563	(0.356)
Growth Fund - Secondary	1.036	0.581	0.472	(0.564)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.955</b>	<b>1.339</b>	<b>1.035</b>	<b>(0.920)</b>
<b>De-Delegated Budgets</b>	<b>2024/25 Budget £m</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast £m</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £m</b>	<b>Budget Change £m</b>
LA Maintained Primary Schools*				
Facilities Time	0.025	0.025	0.038	0.013
Schools Insurance	0.328	0.328	0.322	(0.005)
School Improvement	0.000	0.000	0.279	0.279
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.353</b>	<b>0.353</b>	<b>0.639</b>	<b>0.287</b>

\* The method of allocation will be based per pupil funding as agreed with schools forum members.

**Annex B1 – 2025/26 Growth Summary**

Growth Summary 2025/26	Growth Funded via Formula						Growth Fund Allocations								Total
	Growth Places Sept 25	Cost via Formula 25/26 *	Funded Places Sept 24	Protected Vacant Places (2nd Year New Schools only)	2nd Year Growth Protection (New Schools only)	Cost of Growth Funded via the Formula	Initial New School Allowance	Revenue Set Up Allowance**	Number of Funded Places Sept 24	Number of Protected Vacant Places (2nd Year)	2nd Year Growth Protection	Number of In-Year Places Sept 25	In-Year Places	Cost of Growth Fund allocations	
School Name	A	B	C	D	E	F = B+E	G	H	I	J	K	M	N	O = G+H+K+N	P = F+O
		£			£	£	£	£			£		£	£	£
<b>Primary Schools</b>															
Fairfields Primary	30	87,063				87,063			30	18	72,198			72,198	159,261
Hanslope	15	43,532				43,532		10,500	15	20	77,239			87,739	131,271
St Marys Wavendon (Eagle Farm South)	90	261,190				261,190			105	9	46,831			46,831	308,021
Watling Primary	240	696,507				696,507			30	3	8,130			8,130	704,637
Currently Unallocated Primary Places												120	348,253	348,253	348,253
<b>Secondary Schools</b>															
MK Academy															
Ousedale															
Walton High (Brooklands Campus)															
Watling Academy	120	472,334				472,334			300						472,334
Currently Unallocated Secondary Places												120	472,334	472,334	472,334
<b>All Through (Primary/Secondary) Schools</b>															
Glebe Farm Primary	150	435,317	60	35	101,574	536,890									536,890
Glebe Farm Secondary	180	708,501	180			708,501									708,501
Kents Hill Park Primary	30	87,063				87,063			30						87,063
Oakgrove Primary	30	87,063				87,063			30						87,063
<b>Total</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>2,878,570</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>101,574</b>	<b>2,980,144</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>204,398</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>820,588</b>	<b>1,035,486</b>	<b>4,015,630</b>
2024/25 Growth Payments	690	2,351,440	630	61	273,352	2,624,792		190,500	225	102	247,182	300	1,023,820	1,461,502	4,086,294
Change (Decrease) / Increase	195	527,130	(390)	(26)	(171,778)	355,352		(180,000)	315	(52)	(42,784)	60.00	(203,232)	(426,016)	(70,664)

\* Average per pupil funding rates used, (£4,975 primary and £6,748 secondary)

\* Funding through the formula is intended to be indicative only as rates will vary school by school

\*\* Revenue set up allowance will only be paid to schemes that were agreed under the 2019/20 (or earlier) growth funding criteria, any schemes after that date are not subject to receive revenue set up allowance