

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 21st June 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision

SUBJECT: Schools Block Funding – former Education Services Grant

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide a summary of the services previously supported from the Education Services Grant General duties fund and set up a Task and Finish Group to consider funding options for 2018/2019.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) A School Forum Task and Finish group is set up to consider the services previously funded from the ESG General duties**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 23rd January 2017 School Forum received a report from the Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division, on the Schools Block Funding 2017-2018 former Education Services Grant.

3.2 The Forum agreed that the retained duties element of the former ESG 0.29m, could be funded from the DSG.

3.3 For 2017/2018 the maintained school members of the Forum agreed that the costs of the services previously supported through the General Duties fund, £1,118,469 would be covered by £400,491 transitional funding, the de-delegation of £127,110 Dismissal budget with the remaining balance covered by the 2016/2017 DSG centrally retained carry forward.

3.4 For 2017/2018 the current level of funding for General Duties is £1,118,469. This funding supports the following provision:

- Financial Services support for both revenue and capital;
- Development, Management and co-ordination of capital works
- School improvement support (proportion)
- Internal Audit (proportion)
- Education Welfare (proportion)

- Health and Safety (general duty as an employer)
- Dismissal costs and Premature retirement costs when costs cannot be charged to maintained schools
- Premature retirement costs
- Recharges relating to the above in proportion to the amount transferred to DSG

3.5 To establish the funding options for 2018/2019 onwards it was agreed that a Task and Finish Group be established from maintained school representatives, to consider the services previously funded from the General Services Grant and recommend to the maintained members of the School Forum the most appropriate future funding options. Volunteers are now sought for this Task and Finish Group.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The loss of ESG General Duties funding will have a significant impact on the level of support the Local Authority can provide to schools from 2018/2019 in critical areas such as attendance and behaviour, school improvement and finance.

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Opting to continue to receive all or some of these services reduces the delegated budgets for maintained schools within the Borough.