

REPORT TO: Schools Forum
DATE: 13 June 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Principal Finance Officer, Financial Management Division
SUBJECT: Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn 2017-18
WARD: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report to the School Forum the final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) position for 2017-18 and note the amount of DSG carried forward into the 2018-19 financial year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the amount of unspent DSG from 2017-18 of £466,754 is carried forward into the 2018-19 financial year, be noted by the Schools Forum.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Each year all local authorities are required to submit a Section 251 Outturn return to the Department for Education. The authority records its total income and expenditure for the previous financial year (2017-18). This includes income and expenditure at individual school level, taken from the Consistent Financial Reporting return plus central local authority income and expenditure.

3.2 The DSG available for distribution in 2017-18 totalled £79.5M as below:

Final allocation of DSG for 2017-18	£77.9M
Plus unspent DSG from 2016-17 carried forward	<u>£ 1.6M</u>
Total DSG available in 2017-18	£79.5M

3.3 The DSG expenditure in 2017-18 totalled £79.0 as below:

Actual DSG School level expenditure	£64.3M
Actual DSG Central expenditure	<u>£14.7M</u>
Total DSG expenditure in 2017-18	£79.0M

3.4 The unspent DSG from 2017-18 brought forward into 2018-19 is therefore £0.5M as below:

Total DSG available in 2017-18	£79.5M
Total DSG expenditure in 2017-18	<u>£79.0M</u>
Total DSG brought forward into 2018-19	£ 0.5M

- 3.5 The balance of DSG has already been substantially committed and allocated for spend in 2018/19. This includes:
- Pupil Referral Centres - £0.260m
 - Wade Deacon SLA - £0.053m
 - Education & Skills Funding Agency - £0.104m
 - High Needs - £0.050m

- 3.6 Regular monitoring meetings will continue over the course of the year to identify areas of concern and in order to put in place ways of minimising the risk of overspending against the available allocation.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council are required to ensure that Dedicated Schools Grant funding is allocated towards school expenditure and that an element retained centrally is earmarked towards services supporting schools. The balance of DSG unspent as at 31 March 2018 will contribute towards schools and services achieving a balanced budget position for 2018/19.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 Given the level of public spending austerity since 2010 this is resulting in increased pressure on school budgets. Financial support is offered to schools and the Council will continue to monitor the level of DSG spend throughout the year to mitigate against the risk of overspending against available funding.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPES UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- 8.1 None.