

**REPORT TO:** Schools Forum  
**DATE:** 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Senior Finance Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Central School Services Block 2019-20  
**WARDS:** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To report to the School Forum on the Central School Services Block for 2019-20.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

1. The report is noted.
2. The budgets are agreed.
3. Maintained Schools representatives decide on de-delegated budgets as detailed in Appendix A.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Central School Services Block (CSSB) is now a separate block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. We are required to inform and see approval from Schools Forum for budgets funded from this block, including de-delegated budgets.

3.2 Centrally retained budgets  
Below are the centrally retained budgets funded from the CSSB with their comparison to 2018-19:

	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2018-19</u>
Contribution to Safeguarding post	£47,100	£47,100
Teacher's Panel	£19,460	£19,460
Licences	£102,357	£98,550

From the former Education Services Grant retained element funding now part of the CSSB allocation:

Staffing	£187,960	£178,877
Central Recharges	£107,710	£98,885

3.3 The Contribution to Safeguarding post is an historic commitment that cannot be increased. We have been notified that from 2020-21 the DfE will start to reduce the funding for such historic commitments but it is unknown at this point in time at what rate such reduction will be applied.

- 3.4 The Licenses budget is to meet the cost of the school licences purchased centrally by the ESFA and recharged to local authorities. We have been notified of the charge for 2019-20 which is an increase of more than 3.8% on the 2018-19 charge.
- 3.5 The former ESG retained element funding contributes to the cost of Financial Management posts, Senior Management posts, Investigation of Complaints and SACRE plus associated administrative costs and overheads.
- 3.6 De-delegated budgets  
We have two sets of de-delegated budgets, including budgets that were formerly funded from the General element of the Education Services Grant. It is for maintained schools to decide which items they wish to fund for 2019-20. Appendix A details each budget with the amount per pupil for primary and secondary pupils plus comparison with the 2018-19 budgets.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 If de-delegation is refused for any budget by any phase of maintained schools the Council will need to decide whether it can source other funding to support the service(s).

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **5.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

Support services for children in schools is directly impacted by de-delegated budget decisions.

##### **5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None.

##### **5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

##### **5.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

##### **5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

#### **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 There is a risk to the Council that funding for staff and services in place to

provide support to children in schools may be reduced should Maintained Schools representatives on Schools Forum wish to reject any de-delegated budget.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

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