

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 20th March 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer

SUBJECT: Forecast Outturn for 2018-19

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report to the Schools Forum the forecast outturn for 2018-19 as at 28th February 2019.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 The report is noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The forecast overspend based on spend and expected costs as at 28th February is £755,452. All known and expected costs have been built into the forecast but expenditure currently unknown to us is likely to be incurred. A detailed breakdown is attached in Appendix A.

3.2 Schools Block

A balanced position as required by the regulations having fully devolved the Schools Block to primary and secondary schools with the exception of the 0.5% transfer to the High Needs Block.

3.3 Central Schools Services Block

The CSSB is showing an underspend of £75,082. The underspend from the Premature Retirement budget has been earmarked to support the overspend on the Dismissals budget.

3.4 Early Years Block

The forecast outturn is currently £301,509 due to the cost of 3&4 year old provision. It is hoped that this overspend will be met from additional Early Years Block funding when the final grant allocation for 2018-19 is announced in June/July this year.

3.5 High Needs Block

The forecast currently stands at £674,873 after the additional High Needs funding of £296,390 has been included. The key variances are:

Special schools	£111k overspend (increase in pupil nos)
Top-up funding	£268k overspend
Specialist provision	£277 underspend
Special Equipment	£16k underspend

INMSS provision	£580 overspend
Inter-Authority	£157 overspend
Post 16 provision	£208k overspend
Staffing	£59k underspend
HN Contingency	£296k underspend

3.6 DSG carry forward from 2017-18

The carry forward of £466,755 has commitments of £320,907 leaving a balance of £145,848.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Whilst it appears that we have managed to balance the budgets for 2019-20, it should be remembered that we have additional HN funding of £972,257 transferred from the Schools Block and Central Schools Services Block which we are unlikely to have for 2020-21 onwards. Therefore, work is still required to reduce costs to bring into line with grant funding for each year.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

It is essential that schools and education support services receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.

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 The outturn currently forecast will undoubtedly change for a variety of reasons, the level of demand on the High Needs Block budgets is likely to continue to increase. Stringent measures and monitoring are in place to minimise overspending, subject to the LA and all schools/academies working together.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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