

REPORT TO: Schools Forum
DATE: 16th February 2022
REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director - Finance
SUBJECT: Central School Services Block 2022-23
WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report to the Schools Forum the Central School Services Block (CSSB) for 2022-23.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 The report is noted.
- 2.2 The budgets are agreed.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Grant settlement

As reported, the grant allocation to the CSSB for 2022-23 is £728,189. We are required to inform and seek approval from Schools Forum for budgets funded from this block. The de-delegated budgets agreed at the last meeting also sit within this block.

3.2 Centrally retained budgets

Below are the proposed budgets to be funded from the CSSB with their corresponding 2021-22 budget:

	2022-23	2021-22
Teacher's Panel	£19,460	£19,460
Licences	£109,206	£116,565
Premature Retirements	£501,930	£501,930
Staffing including safeguarding post	£256,749	£222,940
Income for Safeguarding post	(£29,028)	(£18,046)
Central Recharges	£115,443	£109,860
Exclusions Income	(£149,040)	(£149,040)
Inter Authority Income	(£252,890)	(£252,890)
Contingency	<u>£156,359</u>	<u>£145,536</u>
Total	£728,189	£698,973

The Contribution to Safeguarding post is deemed to be historic funding therefore is being reduced by 20% each year by the Department for Education. Agreement has been reached locally that schools will contribute to the balance of the cost for this post which for 2022-23 is £29,028.

The Licences budget is to cover the cost of school licences for maintained schools purchased centrally by the DfE and recharged to local authorities. We have been notified of the actual charge for 2022-23 which is a 6.4% decrease on the 2021-22 charge.

- 3.3 We have an unallocated balance of £156,359. It is proposed that this is set to the DSG contingency until later in the year at which point we can decide how it can be best used, for example to offset some of the deficit from 2021-22 or meet in-year High Needs pressures.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All services funded by the CSSB are in accordance with the regulations. If funding is refused for any budget the Council is unlikely to be in a position to find alternative funding due to financial pressures.

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 Should the centrally retained budgets not be agreed, services to schools could be adversely affected.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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