

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM - 8th OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2014-15

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Forum on the Schools Budget position and anticipated variations in the current year. There is a projected under spend for the year which is currently estimated to be £0.9m.

2.0 ANTICIPATED BUDGET VARIATIONS

2.1 The table attached compares the Schools Budget with the indicative spend for the year. The main variations are set out below.

2.2 Early Years (ISB)

It is expected that the 3 and 4 year old take up will be in line with the budget. 2 year old take up has been enhanced by trajectory funding, and some further spending will be committed throughout the rest of the year.

2.3 Early Years - £0.06m under spend

This budget funds the cost of support for Early Years (including Foundation Consultants). The variation represents an unallocated balance.

2.4 Admissions - £0.02m under spend

This budget is not anticipated to be fully committed at the end of the year.

2.5 School Closure / retirement costs - £0.2m under spend

Taking account of the enhanced pension costs arising from previous school closures there is likely to be an under spend of £200,000.

2.6 Schools Forum - £0.01m under spend

There are minimal costs in this area.

2.7 Insurances - £0.02m under spend

The Governors Liability Insurance is estimated to be £25,000 less than budget. This is in line with previous years.

2.8 School Specific Contingencies - £0.5m over spend

School rates are £200,000 higher than anticipated in 2014/15. The rates for Park and Pensby Primary have increased but are being queried with the Valuation Office. In addition backdated rates have been charged which are in the region of £250,000.

2.9 **Special Staff Costs - £0.06m over spend**

There is a budget of £597,800 that covers all special staff maternity and paternity costs and a budget of £75,400 plus buyback for Trade Union Facility Time. Current projections for Maternity / Paternity are in line with the budget however there have been additional Supply costs at EMAP (WASP). The Trade Union costs are still being finalised, but are anticipated to be funded from available resources.

2.10 **SEN Top Ups / Independent School Fees - £0.7m under spend**

The budget of £12.2m provides the Top Up High Needs funding to special schools post 16 providers and independent non-maintained special schools. The committed spend is currently forecast at £11.5m leaving £0.7m uncommitted from the High Needs Contingency.

2.11 **Special Education Needs Statements - £0.2m under spend**

Statemented pupil numbers will change throughout the year. Compared to budget, there is an under spend projected mainly in relation to the anticipated number of Primary School statements.

2.12 **Support for Special Education Needs - £0.1m under spend**

Within Support for SEN and the Special Education Support Service there are some vacancies which are not at this stage expected to be filled.

2.13 **DSG - £177,166,500**

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2014-15 was updated and published on 17 July 2014 confirming that the allocation to Wirral was £175,834,000 and is reported separately on this agenda.

The budget includes £1,332,000 of DSG from previous years broken down below:

	£
DSG Carry Forward from 2012/13	472,000
Reduction of the Automatic Meter Readers reserve	250,000
School Excess Balances	10,000
Reserve for PFI Affordability Gap costs	600,000
	1,332,000

3.0 **DSG Reserves**

3.1 The final figure of DSG carried forward into 2014/15 was £4.13m of which £1.33m has been applied to the 2014/15 budget as described above.

3.2 The following earmarked reserves make up the balance of £2.8m:

Job Evaluation and Pay Harmonisation Reserve - £1.08m

This is to meet any backdated Job Evaluation and Harmonisation costs which continue to be paid to staff in schools following appeals and settlements. Appeals for Teaching Assistants in Special Schools are being finalised.

DSG Reserve - £0.93m

In 2013/14 there was an under spend of DSG of £930,000. This has been carried forward and will be applied as part of the Schools Budget for 2015/16.

Defibrillators Reserve - £0.16m

This reserve has been allocated to schools to fund the installation of defibrillators in schools.

City Learning Centres - £0.12m

This reserve will be used to meet any large equipment failure/replacement costs or potential unfunded summer term costs.

Schools Contingency - £0.19m

A reserve to meet any significant unforeseen costs in excess of the budget provision.

High Needs MFG - £0.33m

This reserve will meet the costs of the MFG for special Schools and Resourced Base provision in 2014/15.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The anticipated under spend on the centrally managed Schools Budget is £0.9m. This will continue to be monitored. Any balance will be carried forward at the end of the Financial Year to be taken into account of as part of future years budgets.
- 4.2 Variations identified in the centrally held schools budget set out above have no direct impact on delegated school budgets.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Forum notes the estimated financial position of the Schools Budget for 2014/15.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1 – Budget Variations 2014/15

	Adjusted Base Budget 2014/15 £	Forecast Spend 2014/15 £	Variation 2014/15 £
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary Schools	92,497,800	92,497,800	0
Secondary Schools	30,618,500	30,618,500	0
Special Schools	8,500,300	8,500,300	0
SEN Bases	2,006,000	2,006,000	0
Emslie Morgan Alternative Provision School	640,000	640,000	0
Wirral Hospital School	1,352,300	1,352,300	0
Early Years	15,551,000	15,551,000	0
Individual Schools Budget Total	151,165,900	151,165,900	0
Central School Costs			
Early Years	489,700	432,000	(57,700)
Admissions	365,400	342,000	(23,400)
School Closure / retirement costs	326,000	126,000	(200,000)
Licences & Subscriptions	152,000	152,000	0
Schools Forum	10,600	0	(10,600)
School Harmonisation Costs	450,000	450,000	0
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,336,200	2,336,200	0
PPM	449,000	449,000	0
PFI affordability gap	2,586,500	2,586,500	0
Costs Delegated to schools			
Library Service	195,000	195,000	0
Insurances	57,700	32,000	(25,700)
MEAS	260,400	253,800	(6,600)
School Specific Contingencies	107,500	580,500	473,000
Special Staff Costs - Maternity	597,800	657,800	60,000
Special Staff Costs – Trade Union	75,400	75,400	0
Milk & Meals	13,900	13,900	0
Behaviour Support	96,500	84,500	(12,000)
High Needs Pupils			
SEN Top Ups / Independent School Fees	12,176,700	11,424,800	(751,900)
Statements	4,648,500	4,466,000	(182,500)
Support for SEN	2,282,700	2,157,200	(125,500)
Education Out of School	251,400	251,400	0
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
Non Delegated School Costs	27,987,100	27,124,200	(862,900)
Dedicated Schools Grant	(175,834,200)	(175,834,200)	0
Contributions from Reserves	(1,332,300)	(1,332,300)	0
DSG Total	(177,166,500)	(177,166,500)	0
Grand Total	1,986,500	1,123,600	(862,900)