

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **SCHOOLS FORUM – 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017**

#### **REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

#### **DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT BASELINE FOR 2018 TO 2019 FINANCIAL YEAR ALLOCATIONS**

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### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Forum on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) baseline for 2018-19, following a data collection exercise carried out by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In March/April 2016, the EFA conducted a data collection exercise in order to obtain up to date information on Local Authorities' split of expenditure between the four blocks of DSG – Schools, High Needs, Early Years, and the Central School Services block.
- 2.2 This exercise has been repeated during March/April 2017, with the information provided being the starting position for the first year of the schools and high needs national funding formulae in 2018-19.
- 2.3 The early years block information provided as part of last year's baseline exercise was used to establish the baseline for the early year's national funding formula, which is in place from April 2017. There is therefore no update to the early year's baseline.

### **3.0 BASELINE 2017-18**

- 3.1 The table attached compares the 2017-18 planned spend with the DSG baseline information.
- 3.2 The schools block baseline has increased by 2.34% to £193.559m, which reflects PFI Affordability Gap (£2.3m) and other historic budgets (£825k) being delegated to schools from April 2017.
- 3.3 The baseline for the Central School Services Block totals £2.217m, which is split between ongoing responsibilities (£1.282m) and historic commitments (£935k). This includes £730k for the former ESG retained duties, but has reduced by 58.8% due to the PFI affordability Gap and other budgets being delegated to schools (see paragraph 3.1).
- 3.4 The High Needs block baseline is £35.167m, which includes £1.359m funding for Wirral Hospital School.

## 4.0 MOVEMENT BETWEEN DSG BLOCKS

- 4.1 The baseline figures in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 also reflect a transfer of £106k from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block following the transfer of central budgets to schools (including Special Schools). This was agreed by Forum on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## 5.0 HISTORIC COMMITMENTS

- 5.1 As part of the process for confirming baselines for DSG, EFA are asking local authorities to confirm historical commitments they expect to spend against in the 2017 to 2018 financial year, and do not expect historic commitments to increase from the level arising from the 2016 to 2017 historic commitments exercise. Wirral's historic commitments include combined budgets and pension costs:

	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
School wellbeing / staff surveys	18,600	0
Discretionary Rate Relief top ups	106,600	106,600
School improvement	359,900	330,000
LCSB contribution	30,000	30,000
School Intervention	674,500	136,000
PFI – CLCs	108,200	68,500
LACES	140,500	140,500
PFI support team	61,800	61,800
Governors Forum	2,200	2,200
City Learning Centres	196,500	
Retirement costs	86,000	60,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,784,800</b>	<b>935,600</b>

## 6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That the Forum notes the reports and the DSG baseline figures.

**Deborah Gornik**  
**Interim Director of Children's Services**

**Appendix 1 – Dedicated Schools Grant baselines for 2018-19 financial year allocations:**

	<b>Schools Block (£m)</b>	<b>Central School Services Block (£m)</b>	<b>High Needs Block (£m)</b>	<b>Early Years Block (£m)</b>	<b>Total (£m)</b>
Total planned spend	193.939	2.981	35.356	19.857	251.566
Council Contribution		(0.764)			(0.764)
Reserves	(0.38)		(0.189)		(0.569)
Estimated additional EY changes				0.567	0.567
<b>2017-18 DSG baseline</b>	<b>193.559</b>	<b>2.217</b>	<b>35.167</b>	<b>19.29</b>	<b>250.233</b>
2017-18 DSG allocation	193.559	2.323	35.061	19.29	250.233
<b>Transfer between blocks</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.106)</b>	<b>0.106</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>