



Report to Schools Forum

Date: 21st March 2023

Title: Dedicated Schools Budget – Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022-23

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Recommendations:

Schools Forum is asked to note the revenue budget monitoring forecast at the end of January 2023 (Period 10)

Reason for decision: For Information

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. This report updates Schools Forum on the current forecast for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget for the 2022-23 financial year, based on the spend to 31st January 2023 (period 10).

2. Forecast 2022-23

2.1. The overall Dedicated Schools Budget is currently projected to overspend by £0.29m as at the end of January, an adverse movement of £0.57m compared with the previous report to Schools Forum.

	Budget £'000	Forecast £'000	Forecast Variance £'000	%
Central Block	5,054	5,185	131	3%
Early Years Block	34,579	33,286	-1,292	-4%
High Needs Block	104,062	105,508	1,446	1%
Schools Block	174,797	174,797	0	0%
	318,492	318,776	284	
Funding Block	-318,492	-318,776	-284	0%
Education - DSG Total	-0	0	0	0

1.1. The early years block is projected to underspend by £1.3m mainly due to reduced take up of places for 3 and 4 year olds. The reduced take up reflects children taking less hours and changes in working patterns of parents post Covid. Take up of places

by vulnerable 2 year olds, however, has increased from 62% to 92%. It is likely that a proportion of this underspend will be clawed back by the DfE during the 2023-24 financial year. The amount clawed back will be determined by the numbers of children taking up places as at the January pupil census date

- 1.2. A summary of the current forecast against the high needs block is attached as an appendix to this report. High needs budgets are forecast to overspend by £1.4m, an increase of £0.6m compared with the previous report.
- 2.2. The forecast takes into account the unallocated contingency of £1.7m and includes pressures against the budgets for both independent and Buckinghamshire maintained and academy special schools, personal budgets and mainstream top ups, alternative provision and integrated therapies.
- 2.3. Schools block is currently projected to break even.
- 2.4. Central schools services block is projected to overspend by £0.13m due to pressures against the budget for Premature Retirement Costs as costs continue to exceed the available budget. There are also small overspends against the Admissions Team and the budget for copyright licences.

3. DSG Reserve

- 3.1. Any variance against the DSG is to be managed through the DSG reserve which is ringfenced.
- 3.2. The DSG deficit at the start of the 2022-23 financial year is £3.57m, the current forecast would cause the deficit to increase to £3.85m. Other adjustments to the DSG reserve including the drawdown of Growth Fund to fund pupils in new and expending schools, and a positive DfE adjustment to the Early Years block for 2021-22, result in a forecast deficit of **£4.12m** at the end of the current financial year.

