

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Executive Director of Finance and Resources
Executive Director of Children and Public Health
to

Education Board

on

18th January 2022

(also following the 2022/23 funding principles agreed at the Education Board on the 18th November 2021 and 15th December 2021)

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Dedicated Schools Grant budget 2022/23

1 Purpose of Report

To present the 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget including the DSG Individual School budgets for 2022/23, and set the recommended Early Years funding rates for 2022/23.

2 Recommendation

2.1 The Early Years funding rates for 2022/23 are agreed as referenced within Para. 8.3 to 8.5.

2.2 To agree the approach, as referenced in Para. 9.2 and 9.3, for consideration to uplifted banded top up rates for Special Schools and Alternative Provision from April 2022, in view of the recent 16th December 2021 additionally DfE announced high need DSG supplementary grant funding to support the health and social care national insurance levy and wider cost pressures.

2.3 That the remainder of this 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget paper, be noted, including the DSG individual school budget allocations for 2022/23, and these have been set as agreed in accordance with the approved funding principles of both the last 15th December 2021 and 18th November 2021 DSG Education Board finance papers.

3 Background

3.1 This paper sets out the proposed Dedicated Schools Grant Budget for the financial year 2022/23 which is also to be set by the Council as part of the annual budget cycle finalized in February 2022.

- 3.2 This paper also follows both previous and detailed DSG Education Board (EB) funding papers considering the 2022/23 budget, as presented, and approved for EB recommendation in both the November 2021 and December 2021 board meetings. The principle funding decisions approved at both of those previous boards are made clear for reference within each section of this paper.
- 3.3 This paper now also follows the Department for Education (DfE) DSG 2022/23 funding block announcements made on the 16th December 2021, and release of the 2022/23 DfE Authority Proforma Tool (APT) on the 20th December 2021.
- 3.4 The DfE release of the 2022/23 APT, therefore enables the EB to also formally set the final distribution of the 2022/23 school block funds to Individual Schools, using the updated numbers on roll for each School as per the latest DfE October 2021 school census data, and in line with the previous funding agreements of the November 21 meeting which set the 2022/23 per pupil DSG rates for each school. The APT will be submitted back to the DfE by the Local Authority (LA).
- 3.5 This paper also displays the final 2022/23 DSG funding allocations for de-delegated funds, growth fund, central schools block, early years block (remains DfE provisional) and high needs block (High needs in totality only and remains DfE provisional).
- 3.6 And as agreed, at the March 2019 EB Board Meeting, and the December 2019 Board meeting, this paper present's the provisional growth fund rates for 2022/23, as well as an updated and now final growth funding rates for 2021/22.
- 3.7 On the 25th November 2021, the DfE announced the DSG 2022/23 Early Years (EY) funded rates, that announcement now enables the consideration for both EY provider rates and EY centrally retained rates to be set for 2022/23 recommended within this paper (section 8).
- 3.8 On the 16th December 2021, alongside the DSG allocations for 2022/23 the DfE have also officially announced and confirmed an additional supplementary grant. For mainstream schools this grant will be paid outside of the DSG, and is being provided in respect of both the health and social care national insurance (NI) Levy and other wider cost pressures, from 2023/24 it is the DfE's intention to incorporate this grant into the DSG allocations. An additional separate grant for health and social Care NI levy will also be paid for early years provisions in schools, maintained nursery schools and post 16 provision within Schools. The funding methodology has been published on the DfE website, and school level allocations will be published in spring 2022. Supplementary grant funding to support the health and social Care NI Levy and wider cost pressures in special schools and alternative provision, has also now been built into the 2023/23 DSG high need budget allocation awarding an additional amount of 4% to the DSG high needs funds. The DfE have stated they expect those schools, to discuss with their LA any increase as part of the top-up funding paid from local authorities' high needs budgets. The additional high need funding also takes into account that colleges and other providers offering extra hours of study to students with high needs may require additional high needs top-up funding to support.

4 Dedicated Schools Grant Allocations 2022/23 (Set by the DfE)

- 4.1 The Department for Education (DfE) has set out the following funding blocks for Southend's Dedicated Schools Grant for 2022/23 (col.A);

	A	B	A – B
	2022/23 £M	2021/22* £M	Inc / (dec) £M
Schools Block	137.026	133.046	3.979
Growth Fund	0.790	0.771	0.019
Schools Block Subtotal	137.816	133.817	3.999
Early Years Block (Provisional)	10.125	10.773	(0.648)
High Need (HN) Block (Provisional)	27.758	25.456	2.302
HN Additional Supplementary grant	1.007	0	1.007
Central Block	1.441	1.556	(0.115)
Grand Total	178.147	171.603	6.544

2021/22* High Need Block is Final, Early Years remains Provisional until July 22

Appendix 2 – “DSG budget 2022/23”, provides the detailed allocation including movement from the latest 2021/22 budget.

- 4.2 Although the EB and LA remain responsible for allocating the entirety of DSG, the final actual DSG amount awarded to the LA will exclude funding for mainstream academy schools, national non-domestic rates for all mainstream schools, High Need place funding for academy schools, colleges and further education providers, and free special schools. These excluded amounts are paid directly to those settings by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and known by the term ‘recoupment’ to DSG funds. Therefore the final estimated allocation expected to be awarded to the LA is £55.958M, after considering these estimated recoupment deductions of £122.189M which are also listed separately for each funding block in Appendix 2.
- 4.3 Within the Schools Block funding allocation:
- 4.3.1 The primary pupil led funding element has been set at £66.513M based on a total unit of funding of £4,480.02 per primary pupil (£4,383.76 in 21/22) for 14,847 number of pupils (14,995 in 21/22). The total uplift % per pupil is 2.2%.
- 4.3.2 The secondary pupil led funding has been set at £69.443M based on a total unit of funding of £5,899.78 per secondary pupil (£5,782.65 in 21/22) for 11,771 number of pupils (11,455 in 21/22). The total uplift % per pupil is 2.0%.
- 4.3.3 The premises factor funding is allocated at £1.070M (£1.075M in 21/22) and the funding for growth is allocated at £0.790M (£0.771M in 21/22).
- 4.4 The DfE Early Years funding rates applied to the DSG allocation for 2022/23 have been set at £4.71 per hour for 3 & 4 year olds (uplift of 3.7% from £4.54 in 21/22) and £5.61 per hour for 2 year olds (uplift of 3.9% from £5.40 in 21/22). The total early years block allocation remains provisional for 2022/23 as the allocations will be adjusted for take up of provision by the DfE in July 2022 and

a further final adjustment in July 2023 (based on the January 2022 and January 2021 early years census data).

- 4.5 The high needs block is still provisional until the final funding allocation is expected to be announced in July 2022, where by the DfE will be updating the final funding allocation in recognition that the authority meets all the high need place funding costs in their home area regardless of the pupil's own home authority residence (excluding free special schools). And this is known in the DfE high need funding terminology context as the "high need import and export funding adjustment". The home authority will be compensated in relation to high need place funding where that authority supports more pupils (than the previous year) who live outside of the home resident authority area than pupils they have been required to place in another LA area, or on the contrary, a reduction in the local funding adjustment will be applied if the opposite event occurs.
- 4.6 The high needs block provisional allocation has been increased by a further £2.302M in 2022/23 on its core funding, and also, as the DfE announced on the 16th December 2021, an additional DSG supplementary grant amount of £1.007M to support the health and social care levy and wider cost pressures.
- 4.7 The Central Block allocation has been set with an amount of £0.978M for ongoing responsibilities (£0.977M for 21/22) funded at a rate of £36.75 per pupil for 26,617 pupils (£36.94 rate per pupil and 26,450 pupils in 21/22) funding for historic commitments is now set at £0.463M (£0.579M in 21/22).

5 Schools Block – Individual School Block (ISB) allocations - £137.017M

- 5.1 As illustrated for each School in "Appendix 1 - 2022/23 final Individual school budget allocations". The DfE release of the December APT enables the LA to formally set the distribution of the 2022/23 school block funds to individual schools, using the updated numbers on roll (NOR) for each School as per the latest DfE October 2021 school census data, and in line with the previous funding agreements approved at the EB on the 18th November 2021 distributing agreed funding amounts per pupil for each school.
- 5.2 Therefore the funding per pupil (as illustrated in Appendix 1) for individual school allocations have been set on the following agreed principles which mirrors the National Funding Formulae:
- 5.2.1 The minimum per pupil levels have been set at £4,265 for primary schools (£4,180 in 2021/22) and for secondary schools £5,525 (£5,415 in 2021/22), both with an equivalent circa 2% increase from 2021/22. And to simply remind, from 2020/21 the minimum amounts per pupil are also now a mandatory funding factor.
- 5.2.2 Where schools are attracting their underlying core NFF allocations, the NFF has built in an increase of circa 3.0% from the 2021/22 Pupil led funding factors: basic entitlement, free school meals at any time in the last 6 years, income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI). Lower prior attainment (LPA), English as an additional language (EAL), a circa 2% increase on Free Schools Meals (FSM) from 2021/22, and separately a 3.0% increase on the lump sum from 2021/22.

5.2.3 And for those Schools whose per pupil led funding rate is already above both 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, the NFF funding floor per pupil led rate has been set at a 2.0% increase from their 2021/22 per pupil led base line.

5.3 Premises factor funding – Again, as shown and required in Appendix 1 all funding allocations have separately included NFF estimated 2022/23 business rate charges that will be paid centrally from the 1st April 2022 through the ESFA to billing authorities. And as referenced in the December 2021 EB paper, Schools retain business rates liability and will need to record notional accounting entries – income and expenditure in their 2022/23 accounts.

Other key points for noting in the NFF funding formulae and APT:

5.4 Basic entitlement rates per pupil have been set as per the NFF rates, at;

Primary	£3,228.39
Key Stage 3	£4,552.06
Key Stage 4	£5,130.10

5.5 The Primary to Secondary funding ratio is set at 1:1.31.

5.6 The numbers of pupil on roll (NOR) in and registered in the APT as per the October 2021 census compared to the October 2020 census, has increased by a net of 170 pupils, which is a growth of 318 pupils in secondary partially offset by a reduction of (148) pupils in primary. The total NOR in October 2021 is therefore now 26,624 pupils (split Primary 14,850 and Secondary 11,774), compared to the previous year of 26,454 pupils (split Primary 14,998 and Secondary 11,456).

5.7 The total Individual School block allocation for the 2022/23 funding formula is an increase in the totality of Individual School block allocations of £4.116M from the 2021/22 allocation, which is due to both an overall increase in the NOR and funding factors referred to in 5.2.

6 Schools Block – Centrally retained de-delegated lines – £2,775 (applicable to maintained schools only)

6.1 The de-delegated per pupil funded amounts have been set as agreed in the EB December 2021 paper, at £0.50 per pupil for staff costs covering public duties returning an annual de-delegated sum of £2,775.

7 Schools Block – Centrally retained growth fund - £0.796M

7.1 The DSG 2022/23 growth fund amount has been set in accordance with the principles agreed in the EB March 2019 and December 2019 papers, where by the 2022/23 DSG amount awarded for growth will be held centrally and distributed to schools who have been required by the LA to increase their number of intake classes. And it continues to remain minded, that as agreed in the March 2019 EB paper growth to ensure funding allocations are sensibly managed and distributed, that growth funding is managed on a long term basis allowing any one year to either over or under spend but provided the total

application of the growth fund remains affordable within the life cycle of the planned growth.

7.2 The EB December 2019 paper, also included a further agreement that if affordable to the long term growth model, that as well as formally setting the growth funding rates for the following September (in this case from September 2022), a back dated increase from the previous September (in this case September 2021) rate can now also be applied.

7.3 Therefore Appendix 3 displays an updated growth fund model (the original model itself was first shared at the March 2019 EB). And as previously advised and shown in the model, the DSG growth funding allocations are determined by the DfE, using an annual funded rate per pupil for primary and secondary schools, multiplied by their respective positive middle super output area pupil growth (MSOA) between the two most recent October census's. MSOA has always been highlighted as a difficult measure to predict, so hence why it is important, and continues to be that model is refreshed on an annual basis.

MSOA* - is defined by the office for national statistic, as a small enough geographical area to detect pockets of growth, based on school post codes grouped within a particular area.

7.4 The updated growth model (as shown in Appendix 3) has therefore now been updated considering the following two factors:

7.4.1 The first factor, is the DfE have updated the 2022/23 growth funded per pupil rates (funding coming into the DSG) by 2.1% from 2021/22 on primary rates, and 1.2% from 2021/22 on secondary rates.

7.4.2 The second factor, is to remind, MSOA growth is not only driven by the requirement of new intake classes but also any further throughput pupil growth within a school, for example, if the number of current year 11 pupils are less than the current number of year 7 pupils in a school (which can occur regardless of any new approved intake class). Our secondary sector continues to positively perform well on this factor in some schools and has been further increased moving forward.

7.5 Therefore, based on these factors above the growth rates applied from September 21 can now be increased by a further 3% to £3,411 per primary pupil and £4,045 per secondary pupil (both now an increase of 8% from the September 20 rates), and the opening rates from September 2022 can be further uplifted by 5% to £3,582 per primary pupil and £4,257 per secondary pupil. The rates still remain below the NFF minimum rates per pupil distributed in the ISB, but it also remains minded, these rates are not intended to be at the NFF minimum rates as growth is only temporary support funding for new intake classes until that year's pupil growth is formally captured in the annual October census and therefore core funding of a school. But none the less welcome that these funding increases can still be applied.

7.6 And as previously agreed, whilst we await under a Hard NFF any further DfE announcements in terms of awarding national growth allocations, the growth Fund model will continue to be updated on an annual basis, shared in this annual January paper declaring rates for the following academic year (within the minimum tolerances rate levels as set in the March 2019 EB paper, used only, if required to remain affordable to the allocation), and with the additional step of a

backed dated funding increase only, if affordable, to the rates declared at the start of the current academic funded year.

8 Early Years Block (Provisional) - £10.125M in total

8.1 As referenced in para 3.7 and 4.4. The DfE announced on the 25th November 2021, the DSG funded rates for 2022/23 which also includes a provisional update to the 2022/23 totality of funds based on the traditional January 2021 EY census. The DfE have also announced for 2022/23 that they will return to the traditional annual January EY census' of funding, and the final 2022/23 allocation will therefore be based on 5/12s of the January 2022 PTE census numbers (to cover the period April 2022 to Aug 2022) and 7/12s of the January 2023 PTE census numbers (to cover the period Sept 2022 to March 2023) which will be announced in July 2023. In July 2022, there will be update to the 2022/23 provisional allocation based on January 2022 PTE census numbers only.

PTE* as DfE defined, assumes all children access the full 15hrs per week support over 38 weeks in the year.

To simply remind, in 2021/22 in response to Covid the DfE are funding allocations on EY termly census allocations, rather than the traditional January census's.

8.2 Appendix 4, displays the recommended 2022/23 EY funding rates and provisional allocation alongside the current 2021/22 budget allocation which is still currently based on the January 2020 EY census (pre-full covid impact). And as referenced in the December 2021 EB paper based, there is a reduction in the 2022/23 provisional PTE take up from provisional 2021/22 of approximately 10% across 3 and 4 year old core and extended entitlement and 2 year old eligibility core take up, and an increase of 40% on Early Years Pupil Premium take up.

8.3 With consideration to the DfE uplifted EY rates, and with recognition of further financial strain on EY providers to help contribute to National Minimum and Living Wage increases, as well as inflationary cost pressures it remains recommended for 2022/23 that Southend continues to passport through 3 and 4 year old funding at a rate of 98% of total funding to providers, which still remains 3% above the statutory minimum requirement of 95%. For 2022/23, this will set a 3&4 year old core universal and extended entitlement provider rate of £4.53 per hour. This is a 15 pence increase per hour (of the 17 pence per hour increase awarded through national DfE allocations) from 2021/22. The remaining 2 pence increase of the uplifted 17 pence per hour is proposed to further support EY central funds. Current provision, as traditionally honoured has allowed for a small centrally retained fund to continue to support EY training, support and advise and SEND inclusion. An additional 2 pence per hour will allow for a small increase to this fund of £21,000 (based on the revised 2022/23 PTE allocation). This additional funding will be used by the Head of Early Years to employ an additional member of staff to further support providers, managed within the wider provisional centrally retained fund of £169,000 in totality for 3&4 year olds. This post will be used to increase the efficiency and capacity of supporting front line queries and guidance for the monthly payment process, and wider EY support to encourage further EY take

up where eligible. It is also proposed that the mandatory deprivation rate which is passported to providers (based on EYPP eligibility), is also maintained at 0.44 per hour.

- 8.4 It is also proposed that the 2022/23 2 year old provider eligibility entitlement rate for disadvantaged 2 years old is set at £5.57 per hour. This awards the maximum increase of 21 pence per hour from the DfE allocation. And continues to retain the small centrally retained fund of now provisional £9,000 per annum. The DfE do not set a regulatory passport requirement amount on this fund, but report this is because most local authorities do already passport this funding through to providers.
- 8.5 As displayed in Appendix 4, The DfE have also set the 2022/23 allocations for both the Disability Access Fund (DAF) and Early years pupil premium (EYPP). Which are 100% passported through based on eligibility. The EYPP rate for 2022/23 is £0.60 per hour (increase of 7 pence per hour from 2021/22), and the DAF rate for 2022/23 is £800 per child, (an increase of £185 per child from 2021/22).
- 8.6 It is noted, within this paper that there is a separate paper (at this EB) from the Head of Early Years requesting access to the available DSG Early Years balances over the next 2 years. Whilst it is pleasing to confirm that these requests can be funded (subject to EB approval) from the EY DSG reserve, consideration to funding these further EY centrally retained provisions of services on an ongoing basis should they prove successful, will therefore need to be considered as part of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 EY budget allocations.

9 High Needs Block (Provisional) - £28.765M

- 9.1 As first shared in the October 2021 EB DSG report, including an explanation of. The 2022/23 High Needs block under NFF has seen further confirmed growth in funding from the DfE of £2.301M compared to the latest 2021/22 budget allocation, and plus now as highlighted in 3.8, an additional DSG supplementary DfE grant announced on the 16th December 2021 of £1.007M to support wider cost pressures in high needs funding, as well as health and social care NI levy costs within Special Schools and Alternative provision.
- 9.2 As previously agreed with EB (and annual cycle of DSG funding papers), the detailed funding allocation of the 2022/23 high need funding to service lines will be presented at the June 2022 EB, as this then allows both sufficient time for the most accurate planning of expected top up funding amounts in the following academic year and also therefore considering any standard affordable uplifts alongside. However, given that this now welcome additional grant of £1.007M to support health and social care NI levy cost for special schools and alternative provision, alongside wider cost pressures, has been announced to take effect from April 2022. And it is the DfE's intention that they expect those schools to discuss with the LA, any increases to top up funding to support increase cost pressures. And given, the now thankfully financial healthy position of our High Needs DSG position, it is proposed that this action is now commenced leading up to and for implementation from April 2022. This work will therefore need to commence on the current top up special school banded model rates from April 2022, and including but separately alternative provision. The work will need to

be lead by the LA officers Head of SEND, Head of Access and Inclusion and Senior Finance Business Partner in communications with the respective schools.

- 9.3 Although it is not a DfE statutory requirement that the EB approve the final top up amounts as this is ultimately set by the LA, it is expected to form part of the consultation, and in view of our good local governance practise, whereby, the LA seeks EB approval for any changes to top up rates (including consultation through the Resources Sub Group), it is advised for transparency and good governance, the result of this work is shared at the June 2022 EB. This work will then also form part of setting the wider detail of the high need budget 2022/23. Should this pose any unlikely challenges, any backdated top up rate increases could be applied from April 2022 following the June 2022 EB.

10 Central Block - £1.441M

- 10.1 The central block budgets have been set in accordance with agreement of the December 2021 DSG EB paper.
- 10.2 The final 2022/23 amounts are therefore confirmed as;

From Central Schools Services Block	Amount
Combined budgets / historic commitments	£463,304
Copyright Licences*	£142,987
Schools Admissions	£275,617
Servicing of Schools Forum	£18,700
Protected centrally employed teacher employer pension contribution	£95,332
Retained Duties*	£445,539
	£1,441,479

Copyright Licences* - annual copyright licence charge set by DfE.

Retained Duties* - Former Education Services Grant - ongoing funding to support LA Statutory duties – for Child and Educational Leadership, Planning and Budget planning, monitoring, Education Welfare and Asset Management

11 DSG current anticipated reserve levels as at 31st March 2022

11.1 The table below updates the current expected DSG reserve balance by year end, reflecting the balances as presented in the December 2021 EB DSG paper with exception of a revised growth fund forecast and updated future draw down of balances agreed at the December 2021 EB Board. It remains minded, the reserve balance table now also includes as formally agreed through the EB DSG October 2021 paper, the presentation of recommended minimum reserve balances for each block, and where reserve forecast balances are now above those minimum recommended balances the following DSG expenditure conditions apply for the one off use of those reserve balances:

11.1.1 That any one off cumulative use of reserve balances below £50,000 in any one financial year has the required LA lead officer approval to proceed, but on the conditional basis this is reported through to EB.

11.1.2 That any single expenditure item or where the cumulative use of reserve balance was to fall above £50,000 in any one financial year then EB approval is firstly required. If the item or the matter is urgent, then approval can be given by an urgent virtual EB agreement but with a subsequent note to the actual and following scheduled EB meeting for formal minuting.

Block	Schools – ISB	Schools - growth	Schools – de- delegate	Early Years	High Needs	Central	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Reserves surplus / (deficit)							
1 April 2021 B'fwd	0	182	14	1,105	3,003	177	4,481
Agreed Issue to 2021/22 budget	0	0	0	(112)	(60)	0	(112)
Early years funding adjustment 2020/21	0	0	0	(45)	0	0	(45)
2021/22 current forecast variance	0	(61)	0	0	2,903	149	3,008
31 March 2022	0	121	14	948	5,846	326	7,255
Agreed Issue to future yr budgets				0	(150)		(150)
Recommended Minimum Reserve balance	0	121	14	500	2,301	326	3,263
One off Funding Available for DSG Conditional Use				448	3,395		3,842

12 Conclusion

- 12.1 The overall position set out for 2022/23 is a balanced DSG budget, with a current expected, positive and adequate level of DSG funding reserves carried forward into 2022/23.
- 12.2 Overall, it has to continue to be recognised that the 2022/23 funding announcements for both the Schools and High Needs block are a welcome message for Dedicated School Grants funds and therefore the children and educational services provision those funds support.
- 12.3 Combined with both the positive DSG reserve balance position does also continue to highlight current and effective management of DSG funds over recent years through both the Local Authority and Education Board. This continues to therefore further support long term and sustainable funding for Southend pupils and our educational community.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – DSG Final Individual Schools Budget allocations 2022/23

Appendix 2 – DSG Budget 2022/23 and comparison to 2021/22

Appendix 3 – DSG Growth fund rates from Sept-22 and updated from Sept-21

Appendix 4 – Early Years funded rates 2022/23