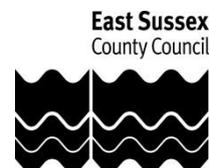


## Agenda Item 6



Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 20 November 2020

Title of report: Central School Services Block (CSSB) DSG 2021/22

By: Ed Beale, School Funding Manager

Purpose of report: To present and seek approval of proposals for the CSSB for 2021/22

---

### 1. Background

- 1.1 The DSG for 2021/22 will be allocated by the DfE, like 2020/21, into four notional blocks: Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central School Services Block (CSSB). Each block is calculated on a different basis and subject to separate regulations as to eligible expenditure.
- 1.2 This paper specifically relates to the CSSB. This block includes funding that has been allocated to Local Authorities (LAs) to carry out functions on behalf of pupils in both maintained schools and academies and has two distinct elements:
- **Ongoing responsibilities** This comprises:
    - funds specified by the DfE and retained centrally (Admissions, Copyright (CLA) licenses and Servicing Schools Forum); and
    - funds that were previously known as Retained Duties ESG which, up to 2017/18, the LA received and held separately for its on-going responsibilities to maintained schools and academies.
  - **Historic Commitments** These are what were previously known as “Combined Services” and is funding for previously specified financial commitments.

### 2. 2021/22 On-going responsibilities

- 2.1 The DfE fund On-going responsibilities on a per pupil basis using the Oct census NOR. Since 2018/19, when this element was introduced, the total NOR in East Sussex has increased each year, which has meant that the DfE has increased the funding allocation to the LA accordingly.
- 2.2 Although the DfE has increased the funding it has allocated to the LA in previous years, the LA has not previously requested to use the full allocation and instead has opted to manage service pressures, and to transfer the increase in allocations to schools / academies.
- 2.3 For 2021/22 however, the LA is asking to retain the full amount that the DfE is providing to the LA. This will not be distributed across all statutory CSSB areas, but used to manage the pressures on services directly affected by increases in NOR. These have been covered within available budgets by the LA since 2018/19, but this is no longer sustainable.

2.4 Table 1 shows the 2021/22 proposals for the 'On-going Responsibilities' element of the CSSB which totals £2.08m. (Please note that this is separate from the Schools Block DSG which funds budget shares / GAGs).

**Table 1**

Category	Responsibility	20/21 Allocations	Additional Funds Required by LA	2021/22 Proposed Allocations
Specified by the DfE	Admissions	£480,300	£27,000	£507,300
	CLA Licenses	£338,000	£0	£338,000
	Schools Forum	£23,500	£0	£23,500
Stat and Reg Duties	Revenue budget preparation, preparation on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education. Formulation and review of the LA Schools Funding Formula.	£136,900	£0	£136,900
	Leadership of Children's services and support staff.	£93,800	£0	£93,800
	Planning for the Education Service as a whole.	£110,100	£13,000	£123,100
	Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating to specifically maintained schools.	£50,000	£0	£50,000
	SACRE	£10,000	£1,000	£11,000
	IA and CFO/S151	£28,500	£0	£28,500
	Consultation Costs relating to non-staffing issues. Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary services.	£32,600	£0	£32,600
Asset Management	Management of LA's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions.	£94,300	£0	£94,300
	General Landlord duties	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Education Welfare	Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils. Responsibilities regarding the employment of children.	£92,600	£20,000	£112,600
	School Attendance	£300,000	£33,000	£333,000
Other Ongoing Duties	Places in Independent Schools for non SEN Pupils	£150,000	£31,700	£181,700
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,950,600</b>	<b>£125,700</b>	<b>£2,076,300</b>

Note: The figures do not represent the full cost of providing these services – the LA provides additional budgets for all these areas.

### 3. 2021/22 Historic Commitments

3.1 The Historic Commitments are funded by the DfE as a lump sum amount.

3.2 Table 2 shows the proposals for 2021/22 funding of the service areas via historic commitments.

3.3 The DfE are allocating £3.9m to ESCC for Historic Commitments of which the LA is requesting £0.42m for Lansdowne and the Virtual School (in line with 20/21), with the remainder to be shared proportionately between all schools and academies (in addition to budget share/ GAG from the Schools block).

3.4 If the final 2021/22 CSSB allocation from DfE is higher than the indicative level (which could be expected as there is an increasing NOR), the intention would be for these funds to be transferred to schools / academies, as in previous years.

**Table 2**

<b>Historic Commitments</b>	<b>2020/21 Allocations</b>	<b>CSSB Changes</b>	<b>2021/22 Proposed Allocations</b>
Lansdowne	£242,000	£0	£242,000
Virtual School	£180,000	£0	£180,000
TTO Funding	£3,778,000	-£3,778,000	£0
Funds transferred to Schools	£724,000	£2,793,200	£3,517,200
<b>**Total</b>	<b>£4,924,000</b>	<b>-£984,800</b>	<b>£3,939,200</b>

\*\* The DfE are reducing the Historic Commitments allocation by 20% from the previous year, meaning the 2021/22 allocation has reduced by £984,800 from 2020/21.

#### **4. Statutory duties for Maintained Schools**

- 4.1 LAs are also able to seek approval from maintained schools to retain some Schools Block DSG (from maintained schools only) to cover the statutory duties that are carried out for maintained schools that were previously funded through the General ESG.
- 4.2 ESCC, unlike other LAs, has not proposed this action in previous years despite seeing significant reductions in this ESG funding (Funding was £3.9m in 2015/16, reducing to nil for 2018/19).
- 4.3 Recognising ongoing pressure on school budgets, we are proposing to continue in this way for 2021/22, although there continues to be some risks to the LA with this approach.

#### **5. Summary and Conclusion**

- 5.1 This report lays out the proposals for £2.08m for 'on-going responsibilities' and £0.42m for 'Historic Commitments' of CSSB for 2021/22 with the remaining £3.5m being transferred to schools and academies in addition to their budget shares/ GAG. Schools Forum members are asked to approve these proposals.