

REPORT TO: Schools Forum
DATE: 16th June 2021
REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director - Finance
SUBJECT: DSG Outturn for 2020-21
WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report to the Schools Forum the Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn for 2020-21.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 The deficit balance of DSG from 2020-21 of £995,742 is carried forward into the 2021-22 financial year to be noted by Schools Forum.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Grant settlement

The final amount of DSG allocated to Halton for 2020-21 was £122,099,358 split as follows:

Schools Block	£92,581,025
High Needs Block	£19,004,582
Early Years Block	£9,848,301
Central School Services Block	£665,450

3.2 DSG Expenditure

Schools Block:

As we did not request a transfer to the High Needs Block for 2020-21, the full amount of £92,581,025 was devolved to schools and academies through the funding formula. We are fully following the National Funding Formula and using those cash values except for the Lump Sum factor, which was increased to ensure the whole of the Schools Block, was devolved.

High Needs Block:

The actual overspend for HN block came to £1,599,137 and compared to the forecast outturn for the HN block reported in February which was £1,723,111 forecasted overspend we have a difference of £123,974 reduction. The key areas of overspend include Top up funding which overspent by £1,263,734 and the Independent Special Schools which was overspent by £1,108,429. Overall this has been offset by underspends across various other High Needs central service areas.

Early Years Block:

The actual outturn overspend for EY block came slightly lower at £7,522 than the £8,221, which was reported in February. The Free entitlement provision for 3 & 4 year olds came in £133,893 under budget while the provision for 2 year olds came in £13,623 over budget.

Central School Services Block:

The CSSB was underspent by £458,710 primarily due to adjustments actioned at year-end that effected centrally retained spend items and have been included here.

A breakdown of the 2020-21 outturn position is shown in Appendix A.

3.3 Outturn position

In-year DSG has overspent by £1,132,206 and taking into consideration the carry forward balance of £136,464 from the previous financial year we have a total DSG deficit of £995,742 to be carried forward into 2021-22.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council is required to ensure that DSG funding is allocated in accordance with the regulations attached to each block of DSG. The balance of unspent DSG as at 31st March 2020 will contribute towards budget pressures in 2020-21.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

It is essential that schools and education support services receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.

5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

5.4 A Safer Halton

None.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 The Council will continue to closely monitor the level of DSG spend throughout the year to mitigate against the risk of overspend against available funding.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 The Local Authority must discharge its statutory responsibilities in relation to all schools and settings.