

DECISION PAPER

SUBJECT: 2015/16 SCHOOLS BLOCK
DATE: 14TH JANUARY 2015
RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS FORUM

SUMMARY:

This paper details the 2015/16 Schools Block which funds Primary and Secondary School budget shares and Central Services retained by the Local Authority.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Schools Forum :

- (i) Approve the central expenditure elements of the Schools Block summarised in Appendix 1.
- (ii) Approve the de-delegation of a centrally held Trade Union Duties budget at a rate of £70,600 in 2015/16.
- (iii) Note the transfer of £1,717,800 of funding between the Schools and High Needs Block for 2015/16.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Local Authorities are required to allocate the Dedicated Schools Grant and prepare budgets for the three blocks for which funding is given by the DfE.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. It could be decided not to expand the Special Schools. This option has been rejected due to the expected level of need. Any expansion in Special School places would need to be funded.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

3. Schools Block

The level of the Schools Block is based on the October 2014 pupil count. The DfE has confirmed the size of the Schools Block as shown in the table below.

	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Actual	Increase/ (decrease)
Schools Block Unit Funding (SBUF)	£4,648.53	£4,641.02	(0.16%)
Pupil count - October	27,307	28,030	2.65%
	£126,937,000	£130,088,000	
Additional Funding for induction of NQTs	£41,000	£42,000	
Reduction for Carbon Reduction Commitment	(£188,000)	Included within SBUF	
Transfer for Inspire Free School		£299,000	
Schools Block	£126,790,000	£130,429,000	2.87%

4. The Schools Block Unit Funding is set at a level defined by the DfE and shows a 0.16% decrease due to the Carbon Reduction commitment adjustment. Primary and Secondary pupil numbers in the city have risen by 2.65%. The overall increase in the Schools Block is 2.87%.

5. The Department of Energy and Climate Change announced on 10th December 2012, that all state funded schools in England will be withdrawn from the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme participation from April 2014. In 2014/15 a lump sum reduction was made from the DSG to compensate the Exchequer for the loss of revenue resulting from local authorities no longer needing to meet the costs of purchasing carbon allowances for schools under the scheme. In 2015/16 this reduction was taken from the Schools Block Unit Funding rate.

6. Table 2 provides details of the breakdown of the % increase in pupils.

Table 2: Breakdown of pupil increase

Sector	Change in numbers
Primary	3.9%
Secondary	(0.6%)

7. De-delegation

The following de-delegated budgets will need to be approved by the Schools Forum to be held centrally:

- Support for schools in financial difficulties (£327,600)
- Trade Union Duties (£70,600)

8. Central Services

The following central services budgets, at the same level as 2014/15, are proposed to be held centrally:

- Admissions function (£422,100)
- MASH and Early Help (£626,800)

The following central services budget, in line with DfE regulations, will be held centrally:

- CLA and MPA Licences (£127,500)

This is an increase from the 2014/15 level. This is due to the DfE now purchasing all licences on behalf of schools nationally. Schools no longer need to purchase these through an SLA from their own budget share. Correspondingly the AWPU has been reduced to offset this. Please note the figure of £127,500 is only an estimate at this time and may be amended in the next week. Should this occur the AWPU will be adjusted accordingly.

9. Primary Growth Fund, (£718,200)

This budget will need to be approved by the Schools Forum to be held centrally.

This fund is proposed to support those Primary schools expanding as part of the Primary Review. Alternatively this budget could be delegated to all schools, however expanding schools would be responsible for funding any extra costs within their own budget shares.

For 2015/16 the rate per extra class is proposed to change as outlined below to reflect recalculated costs for the same assumed increase in staff provision.

2014/15 Rate - £33,400

Proposed 2015/16 Rate - £26,600

The proposed rate is calculated as follows:

7 months of an NQT - $\text{£}26,800/12*7=\text{£}15,627$

7 months of a Classroom Assistant - $\text{£}15,971/12*7=\text{£}9,316$ (32hours, term time)

7 months lunch cover - $\text{£}2,772/12*7=\text{£}1,617$

Total additional cost - £26,560

10. School budget shares

After Calculating the 15/16 budget share at 14/15 funding levels there is £616,400 of “headroom” in the Individual Schools budget. Of the £1,717,800 to be transferred to High Needs £616,400 will come from the Headroom. The remaining £1,101,400 will need to be found by reducing the Schools Block.

After transferring funding between blocks and updating all of the pupil data for each school for the October 2014 pupil count the table below details school budget shares.

Individual Schools Budget	£128,136,200
2015/16 Budget shares at 2014/15 funding levels	£127,519,800
Headroom to Transfer to High Needs	£616,400
Residual Schools Block Funding required for High Needs transfer	£1,101,400
New Individual Schools Budget	£126,418,400
Budget shares post transfer between blocks	£126,418,400

The Schools Forum will need to explore options and recommend the approach to reduce the Schools Block by £1,717,800 in order to facilitate the transfer of funding to the High Needs Block.

11. Appendix 1 shows the breakdown of the Schools Block.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

Appendix 1: Schools Block

Further Information Available From:

Name: David Cuerden

Tel: 023 8083 3878

E-mail: David.cuerden@southampton.gov.uk

Estimated Schools Block 2015/16

DfE 2015/16 Schools Block	£130,429,000
Transfer to High Needs Block	(£1,717,800)
Total Schools Block	£128,711,200
<u>Central Services</u>	
Primary Review Growth Fund	£718,200
Admissions function	£422,100
MASH and Early Help	£626,800
CLA and MPA Licences	£127,500
Individual Schools Budget before de-delegation	£126,816,600
<u>De-delegated</u>	
Support for schools in financial difficulties	£327,600
Trade Union Duties	£70,600
Final Individual Schools Budget 2015/16	<u>£126,418,400</u>
Final Individual Schools Budget 2014/15	<u>£124,519,400</u>
Increase in Individual Schools Budget	<u>£1,899,000</u>