

Decision Maker: **SCHOOLS' FORUM**

Date: **Thursday 15 January 2015**

Decision Type: Urgent Non-Urgent Executive Non-Executive Key Non-Key

Title: **2015-16 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT**

Contact Officer: Amanda Russell, Head of Schools Finance Support
Tel: 020 8313 4806 E-mail: Amanda.Russell@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

This report provides updated information on the 2015-16 Dedicated Schools Grant and how it will be allocated.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Schools Forum is asked to:

- **Note the revised DSG allocation**
- **Discuss the proposed allocation, including changes to the Early Years Funding Formula**
- **Agree de-delegation for maintained primary schools for 2015-16**

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 In December 2014 the DfE released the DSG figures for 2015/16 to include final figures for the Schools Block and the Early Years Block – final details of the High Needs Block will be released in January. Appendix 1 shows how the Pupil Numbers have been calculated for Bromley, which are then used in the calculation of the DSG. Appendix 2 shows full details of how the Dedicated Schools Grant is calculated across all three Blocks including the additional funding for Newly Qualified Teachers. This gives an overall total DSG figure for 2015/16 of £251,733,734. The High Needs Block adjustment and the funding for two year olds has been estimated at this stage as the exact figures will not be known until January/June 2015 respectively.

2015/16 Dedicated Schools Grant						
High Needs Block		Early Years Block		Schools Block		Total
2015/16 funding	£48,365k	Pupil numbers	3,176	Pupil numbers	41,785	
		Funding per pupil	£3,899.47	GUF per pupil	£4,545.22	
		Pupil funding	£12,385k	Pupil funding	£189,922k	
				Free school pupil funding	£758k	
		Early Years Pupil Premium	£241k	NQT	£63k	
Total	£48,365k	Total	£12,626k	Total	£190,743k	£251,734k
Estimated deductions	£6,361k	Estimated 2 year old Funding	£2,408k			
	£42,004k		£15,034k		£190,743k	£247,781k
				Less Academy Recoupment	£146,219k	
Final Total	£42,004k		£15,034k		£44,524k	£101,562k

3.2 There are a number of changes for 2015/16 which the Schools Forum are reminded of as detailed in the previous DSG report as follows:

- Within the Early Years Block, the Two Year Old Funding has reduced from the previous years as from 2015/16 this will be calculated on a participation basis, ie we will only receive funding for pupils actually taking up places. In previous years we have benefitted from additional funding to help to “grow” this service which the LA has been able to use flexibly.
- In accordance with DfE guidelines, from 2015/16 the LA will be responsible for calculating the funding for any free schools. Additional funding has been estimated to support this (e) along with the relevant amount to be recouped from the DSG (f). The Schools Forum will note that the recoupment figure is higher than the funding figure, thus putting pressure of the LA’s overall budget.
- There are a number of adjustments that have been made within the High Needs Block to reflect savings that have been identified within individual services.
- Individual School and Academy funding has been calculated using the formula element from revised option one as agreed at the last Schools Forum meeting and therefore includes the additional allocation of £19.5 million.

3.3 In addition to this there are a number of further changes to be aware of:

- Non recoupment academy funding (ie funding for the two free schools opened in Bromley in 2015) has been confirmed at £758,000.
- Full details of High Needs Block allocation can be seen at appendix 3.

3.4 Appendix 4 shows full details of how the DSG will be allocated in 2015/16. At the previous Schools Forum meeting two areas of additional expenditure were identified, relating to growth funding and Early Years Formula Funding. With regard to the Growth funding, an additional sum of £500k has been added to the budget, based on the estimated level of expenditure for 2015/16. Further work has been done on the Early Years Funding Formula, which is outlined in a separate report. Based on the new formula, it is estimated that around £500k will be required to implement these changes to ensure that there is no significant impact on any individual settings. It was proposed at the last Schools Forum Meeting that these two potential overspends should be met from the underspent DSG from previous years. This is outlined in detail in a separate report, however in anticipation of this the expenditure detail on Appendix 4 shows an in year overspend of £1,012,268.

3.5 Within the Schools Block, individual schools budgets have been set based on the formula factors as previously agreed by the Schools Forum and by Members, which includes the £19.5 million additional funding. Details of the individual formula funding levels can be seen on the APT proforma at Appendix 5. Maintained schools will be notified of their individual funding by the end of February as required by DfE – Academies will be notified of their funding by the EFA in line with their own timescales.

3.6 The LA has made a small change to the amount de-delegated from Maintained Primary Schools for Supply Staff Costs, including cover for maternity, jury service, suspension and union duties. The amount per pupil has increased from £17.38 to £18.50 – this is as a direct result of increased expenditure. There is no change to the amount de-delegated for free school meal eligibility which remains at £8.65 per pupil. The relevant Schools Forum members are asked to formally agree the de-delegation for 2015/16.

3.7 The Schools Forum is asked to discuss the DSG and the related allocations. Any comments will be reported to the Education PDS at their meeting on the 27th January 2015 before they are formally asked to agree the figures.