

**Report of the Director of Children and Families**

**Report to the Leeds Schools Forum**

**Date: 17 January 2019**

**Subject: 2019/20 School Funding Arrangements**

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**Summary of main issues**

1. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is allocated in four blocks: schools, high needs, early years and central schools services. Regulations set by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) requires that we consult with Schools Forum, and in some cases ask Schools Forum to make decisions, on proposals relating to the use of the DSG. This report provides an update on the 2019/20 arrangements relating to the schools, high needs and central school services blocks. An update on the early years block will be provided at the February 2019 meeting.
2. In relation to the High Needs Block, the report includes details of an additional £1.76m of funding being provided by the ESFA in both 2018/19 and 2019/20. The council is proposing that this be used to reduce the Schools Block transfer previously agreed for 2019/20, increase the FFI unit rate for mainstream schools in 2019/20 and make a contribution to the DSG deficit.
3. In relation to the Schools Block, the report covers the Growth Fund, the schools funding formula and PFI funding:
  - For the Growth Fund, we are proposing that the 2018/19 amount and criteria are retained for 2019/20.
  - The final proposal for the schools funding formula provides a per-pupil 0.5% Minimum Funding Guarantee, 2.7% cap on gains and Minimum Funding Level of £3,400 for primaries and £4,700 for secondaries.
  - In relation to PFI funding, the council is proposing to make a contribution of £1m to the PFI factor in the funding formula to address a funding shortfall which the DfE will baseline in future years. Following discussions with the DfE the PFI factor in 2019/20 has also been increased by an additional £200k to enable the Council to pay contract performance deductions to PFI schools, which will be additional income in year to those schools.

4. The report also includes the proposed expenditure for 2019/20 against the central school services block (CSSB), which funds local authorities for the statutory duties they hold for both maintained schools and academies. Approval is sought from Schools Forum on the proposed expenditure from this block. In addition, we can confirm that we will be able to transfer £800k from the CSSB to the High Needs Block for 2019/20, in line with the proposal made previously.

## **Recommendations**

5. Schools Forum is asked to note and provide a view on the proposed use of the additional High Needs Block funding to reduce the 2019/20 Schools Block transfer from £2.5m to £1.5m, increase the FFI unit rate for mainstream schools in 2019/20 from £600 to £650 and make a contribution to the DSG deficit.
  - The ESFA has advised that Schools Forum members are not required to vote again on the Schools Block transfer as it is a reduction from the previously agreed amount.
6. Schools Forum is asked to note the arrangements for the school funding formula including the proposed additional PFI funding contribution by the council for 2019/20.
  - The final decision on the formula will be taken by the Director of Children and Families in accordance with the council's decision making framework.
7. In relation to the Growth Fund for 2019/20, Schools Forum is asked to approve:
  - a) The proposed criteria, which remain unchanged from 2018/19 apart from annual uplifts.
  - b) The total Growth Fund of £2.9m, funded through £2.5m from the Schools Block in 2019/20 and £0.4m of a projected underspend of the 2018/19 Growth Funding that will be earmarked for use in 2019/20. The Growth Fund would be split between £2,360k for primary growth and £565k for secondary growth.
  - This is a Schools Forum decision. In the event that Schools Forum does not agree, the DfE is able to adjudicate if we request this.
8. In relation to the Central School Services Block, Schools Forum is asked to approve the 2019/20 amounts detailed within the report.
  - This is a Schools Forum decision. In the event that Schools Forum does not agree, the DfE is able to adjudicate if we request this.
9. In relation to the Central School Services Block, Schools Forum is asked to note that following confirmation of funding and costs, the proposed transfer to the High Needs Block will be £800k.
  - The final decision on this transfer will be taken by the Director of Children and Families in accordance with the council's decision making framework.

## **1 Main issues**

### **1.1 Additional High Needs Block funding**

1.1.1 In common with many areas around the country, Leeds is under considerable pressure due to increasing demographic growth and complexity of children's needs. We have previously reported to Schools Forum on issues with the historic underfunding of High Needs in Leeds and the impact of the 3% cap on gains. On the 17<sup>th</sup> December the Secretary of State for Education announced that there would nationally be an additional £250m of high needs funding on top of existing allocations, in recognition of the cost pressures that Local Authorities (LAs) are experiencing on the High Needs Block. The national announcement provides £125m for 2018/19 and £125m for 2019/20. For Leeds this results in £1.76m additional funding in each year.

1.1.2 The announcement of the additional High Needs Block funding means that the five year financial plan previously presented to Schools Forum can now be reviewed, including the proposed transfer between blocks for 2019/20. The letter from the Secretary of State included an expectation that LAs may want to review their Schools Block transfer proposals.

1.1.3 Taking into account that funding beyond 2019/20 is uncertain, the risk that pressures on the High Needs Block may increase and recognising the pressures for mainstream schools, the council is proposing that the funding be used to:

- Reduce the previously agreed Schools Block transfer in 2019/20;
- Increase the FFI unit rate for mainstream schools in 2019/20, and
- Make a contribution to the DSG deficit.

1.1.4 Further details of these proposals are provided below. There may also be scope to reduce the budgeted contribution of £0.9m from the High Needs Block to reserves in 2019/20 and this will be reviewed during the year.

#### Use of additional funding in 2018/19

1.1.5 For 2018/19 the settlement provides additional grant of £1.76m. Since the DSG financial monitoring report was presented to Schools Forum in October there have been some additional financial pressures emerging on the High Needs Block which mean that the projected overspend could be higher than originally projected. An update will be provided at the February Schools Forum.

1.1.6 Given that it is now the final quarter of the year and there is limited time to determine spending priorities it is proposed that the additional High Needs Block funding is used to reduce the cumulative DSG deficit in 2018/19. This would mean the deficit would be lower than projected in the 5 year financial plan. However during 2019/20 we are intending to use some of this additional funding to support the proposals detailed

below to reduce the Schools Block transfer and increase the FFI unit rate for mainstream schools.

#### Use of additional funding in 2019/20

- 1.1.7 The settlement also provides an additional grant of £1.76m for 2019/20. However, overall the settlement excluding the additional grant is estimated to be £0.1m less than was initially projected so the net additional available funding is £1.66m. There are still some aspects of the settlement to be announced so there is a possibility that the final settlement could differ slightly from this latest projected position.
- 1.1.8 It is proposed that the additional £1.66m is passed on to mainstream schools, along with a further £0.4m from the additional funding received in 2018/19. This would be achieved by reducing the Schools Block transfer to £1.5m, which would provide an additional £1m in the Schools Block compared to the transfer of £2.5m previously agreed by Schools Forum, and using an estimated £1.05m of funding to increase the FFI unit rate for mainstream schools from £600 to £650. The rate prior to the reduction was £684.
- 1.1.9 The FFI unit rate was reduced in 2018/19 following the High Needs Block review as there were limited options at the time to reduce costs, however this has left many schools with difficulties in meeting the needs of the city's most vulnerable learners. Based on the number of pupils currently in receipt of FFI in mainstream schools, it is estimated that the additional annual cost to the High Needs Block of increasing the FFI rate to £650 would be £1.05m.
- 1.1.10 Taking into account the £1m reduction in the Schools Block transfer, the proposal to increase the FFI rate would lead to a total funding increase of £2.05m for schools. However it is likely that the number of mainstream pupils eligible for FFI will increase in 2019/20, which would see further funding provided for those pupils. The move to increase the FFI unit rate should also lead to a reduction in the number of EHCPs received by the council, which will also reduce the council's costs that are funded from the High Needs Block.

## **1.2 Schools block funding formula**

- 1.2.1 At the November 2018 meeting Schools Forum supported the council's proposal that the 2019/20 school funding formula should reflect option 1 within the consultation but with adjustments specifically in relation to those schools that would see the lowest increase in funding under that option (due to the reduced Minimum Funding Level applied under option 1).
- 1.2.2 The funding formula has now been updated, taking into account the views of Schools Forum, the final funding allocation from the ESFA and the reduction in the Schools Block transfer. This provides for an increase in the Minimum Funding Level, retains a 0.5% Minimum Funding Guarantee and increases the cap on gains to 2.7%. The revised school level allocations for 2019/20 are attached to this report as appendix 1. A comparison is also provided of the funding allocations schools would have received had the council proceeded with option 1 without any amendments. A summary of the

weighting of each of the formula factors is provided in appendix 2 and where any pupil number variations have been built into the formula details of these are provided in appendix 3.

1.2.3 A summary of the priorities of the final formula is provided in the table below.

Funding formula factor	Final formula proposal 2019/20	Local funding formula 2018/19	Consultation option 1 2019/20	National Funding Formula 2019/20
Minimum per pupil increase in funding*	<b>0.5%</b>	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Cap on gains per pupil*	<b>2.7%</b>	2.3%	2.3%	3%
Minimum per pupil funding*	<b>Primary: £3,400</b> <b>Secondary: £4,700</b>	Primary: £3,300 Secondary: £4,600	Primary: £3,300 Secondary: £4,600	Primary: £3,500 Secondary: £4,800

\*Excluding lump sum and certain premises based funding

1.2.4 The decision on the final formula will be made by the Director of Children’s Services, in line with the council’s decision making framework.

1.2.5 In relation to cluster funding, since 2017/18 this has formed part of the formula allocation and it is therefore already included within the figures provided in appendix 2. Up to 2016/17, cluster funding was top-sliced from the schools block and allocated separately to schools. However in October 2016 Schools Forum agreed that for 2017/18 it would be included within the normal schools funding formula as part of the transition towards the national funding formula. The cluster funding was therefore included within the 2017/18 baseline funding figures used to calculate the 2018/19 and 2019/20 funding for schools and it is not separately identified as this would not be in line with the national funding formula.

### 1.3 PFI funding

1.3.1 PFI schools have different arrangements around a number of cost elements including premises costs and various facilities costs. The funding arrangements for such schools are also slightly different to other schools.

1.3.2 A number of financial issues have recently arisen specifically around PFI schools which the Council has been looking to address and has had discussions with the DfE over options to manage these. The main issue is around how the projected increasing costs of the contracts will be funded in the future. The Council has sought a solution which avoids having to take more funding from the Schools Block and provides some financial certainty over the next few years.

- 1.3.3 Leeds has a high number of PFI funded schools with 29 PFI maintained schools and academies across five PFI schemes representing around 11% of schools in Leeds. The PFI contracts are between the council and the PFI contractors and the council is responsible for contract management. The contracts are for 25 years and the schemes will end at various stages up to 2036/37. The budgeted total unitary charge for 2018/19 is £52.1m. The cost of the unitary charge is met through a combination of income received from PFI credits grant from the DfE and contributions from schools through a school budget contribution and a school affordability gap contribution. The affordability gap is the difference between the full cost of the contract and the combined income from the PFI grant and school budget contributions. In order for PFI schools to pay the affordability gap contribution they receive additional PFI Factor funding through the Schools Block of DSG.
- 1.3.4 There are significant differences between the original assumptions in the PFI financial models and what has actually been experienced for variables such as the rate of inflation, the rate of overall increase of the unitary charge payments, lettings income and the available funding to meet the payments. Re-modelling of the financial position for each of the PFI schemes shows increasing and significant funding issues over the remaining lifetime of the schemes, particularly as inflation has increased over the last few years. The options to meet this growing funding gap are limited as most of the funding is fixed or based on previous year spend with an annual uplift for RPIX. In future years it is projected that the uplift will not be sufficient to meet the overall increase in the unitary charge.
- 1.3.5 Following discussions with the DfE it is proposed to increase the PFI factor in the formula through an additional contribution from the Council. The DfE have confirmed that this would then be baselined in future years. This option protects non-PFI schools from contributing to an increase in the PFI Factor and provides more certainty over meeting the projected increase in costs for the PFI schools. The Council is therefore proposing to make a contribution of £1m to the PFI Factor in the school funding formula in 2019/20. This will then be baselined by the DfE in future years' Schools Block DSG settlements. The additional £1m will be distributed to PFI schools through an increase in their PFI Factor funding. In order to prevent these schools being affected by the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) cap on gains in the funding formula the Council has submitted a disapplication request to the DfE to remove the PFI Factor from the MFG calculations. In previous years the volatility of unitary charges and changes in the PFI Factor resulted in some schools not receiving the full increase in funding for the PFI Factor. The Council compensated these schools in 2017/18 and 2018/19 by making additional payments so they were not financially worse off. The disapplication request will avoid this situation occurring in 2019/20, this is particularly important with the proposed £1m increase to the PFI Factor. We will be communicating with PFI schools about these changes and will continue to review the impact on individual schools in future years.
- 1.3.6 Another issue that the Council has sought to resolve is how contract deductions are dealt with. Historically, PFI deductions have been retained by the Council to fund the PFI affordability gap. The current method of attributing deductions against the affordability gap has resulted in a reduced need for ESFA funding of the PFI factor. The DfE's preferred approach of paying deductions directly to PFI schools would result

in an increase in the affordability gap and therefore an increase in the PFI factor funding required. The current treatment of deductions is in line with the legal agreement used in Leeds but the Council has indicated to the DfE that it is open to paying deductions directly to all PFI schools (both maintained schools and academies) in line with the DfE's preferred approach. Following discussions with the DfE the PFI factor in 2019/20 has been increased by an additional £200k to enable the Council to change the policy for the treatment of contact deductions. The Council will now review the current PFI agreements and provide clarification to PFI schools as to how it proposes the payment of deductions will be implemented in 2019/20. The payment of contract deductions direct to schools will be additional income in year to those schools.

## **1.4 Growth Fund 2019/20**

- 1.4.1 Schools Forum has agreed in previous years to retain a central Growth Fund from the Schools Block, in order to support costs incurred by schools that are being established or extended to meet basic need and where admission numbers are increased. This funding recognises that these pupils are not recorded on the census, and so will not attract funding through the usual schools funding formula.
- 1.4.2 Growth Funding is allocated by the ESFA as part of the Schools Block of the DSG. The calculation has changed for 2019/20 and Growth Funding will now be allocated to local authorities on a formulaic basis rather than using historic spend as was the case previously. Overall Leeds' total allocation for growth is £5,010k in 2019/20, compared to £5,442 in 2018/19. The ESFA no longer splits out the amount allocated in relation to the Growth Fund (explicit growth) compared to funding allocated for growth within the funding formula (implicit growth).
- 1.4.3 Schools Forum decides on both the total value of the Growth Fund and the criteria for allocating it to schools. The council's proposals are set out below for Schools Forum to vote on.

### Growth Fund Value

- 1.4.4 For 2019/20 we are proposing that a Growth Fund of £2.9m should be established based on anticipated growth. This will be funded through £2.5m from the Schools Block in 2019/20 and £0.4m of a projected underspend of Growth Funding in 2018/19 which will be earmarked for use in 2019/20. The Growth Fund requirement is split between £2,360k for primary growth and £565k for secondary growth. This funding requirement assumes that the Growth Fund criteria set out below are retained.

### Growth Fund Criteria

- 1.4.5 Schools Forum is required to approve the criteria for allocating funding from the Growth Fund. We are proposing to retain the existing criteria for Leeds schools that have been in place for 2018/19, details of which are provided below.
- 1.4.6 Schools in Leeds are eligible for Growth Funding where expansion has occurred following an increase in the published admission number (PAN) to meet basic need, and where a consultation has taken place beforehand. No funding will be allocated to

schools if they already have surplus places and take children up to the PAN, or if the school itself decides to admit pupils over the PAN.

1.4.7 Growth Funding is paid to schools as a per pupil amount, with further funding available for existing schools that incur additional rental costs or for new schools with pre-opening staffing costs. The table below provides further details of the amounts payable.

Growth Funding available	Basis for allocation	Rate
<b>Funding for all schools eligible for Growth Funding:</b>		
Pupil funding	<p>Age Weighted Pupil Unit rate for each pupil (pro rata if part year).</p> <p>This is the basic entitlement all pupils receive through the schools funding formula.</p> <p>This is also the rate that applies where schools are eligible for the guaranteed top up funding detailed above.</p>	<p>The 2019/20 AWPU rates per year are shown below and are the same as used in the funding formula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary - £2,747.43</li> <li>• KS3 - £3,863.26</li> <li>• KS4 - £4,386.50</li> </ul> <p>As noted in the report, the funding formula rates are subject to approval by the Director of Children and Families in line with the council's decision making framework.</p>
Immediate additional resources, equipment or furniture	Standard per pupil rate. In the case of a single 'bulge' year group this is only paid in the year of expansion.	£100 per pupil is proposed for 2019/20 (no change from 2018/19).
<b>Funding available where applicable to schools:</b>		
Additional rental costs	For temporary accommodation needed to meet agreed growth.	Funded at cost through the growth fund until the financial year following the increase in numbers, at which point we would seek to fund the rental costs through the funding formula (assuming the criteria for this are met).
Pre-opening costs of a new school or academy established to meet basic need	<p>Pre-opening allowance for specific staffing costs. Rate depends on whether it is a primary or secondary school, and the number of additional forms.</p> <p>Funding is to be managed by the governing body.</p>	<p>The rates proposed for 2019/20 are shown below. These are based on the previous amounts, uplifted for pay awards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary 1 form entry - £52,867</li> <li>• Primary 1.5 form entry - £56,284</li> <li>• Primary 2 form entry - £60,798</li> <li>• Secondary - £117,178</li> </ul> <p>A more detailed breakdown is provided in Appendix 4 for information.</p>

## 1.5 Central School Services Block

1.5.1 The Central School Services Block (CSSB) was introduced in 2018/19 to fund local authorities for the statutory duties they hold for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:

- funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
- funding for ongoing central functions, such as admissions, previously top-sliced from the schools block
- residual funding for historic commitments, previously top-sliced from the schools block

1.5.2 In December 2018, the Government issued a notification giving the amount of funding for this block. For 2019/20, this allocation has been set at £5.325m for Leeds. This is an increase of £154,000 compared to the 2018/19 allocation. In addition, Schools Forum in November 2018 agreed to transfer £800,000 from the CSSB to the High Needs Block. This leaves £4.525m to fund CSSB services.

1.5.3 Schools Forum approval is required each year to confirm the amounts on each line. Schools Forum previously gave full approval for the 2018/19 proposals. The amounts requested to be approved for 2019/20 are shown below.

### Retained Duties element of the Education Services Grant

1.5.4 The Retained Duties element of the Education Services Grant was transferred into DSG in 2017/18. The onus is on each local authority to ensure that they retain this funding centrally in order to contribute to the cost of fulfilling their statutory duties for all schools and academies.

1.5.5 The detail of the services funded by this amount is provided below, and although the service provision has not changed since 2018/19, due to unavoidable inflationary increases the cost of these services has increased to £2.3m. Part of the cost of these services is met by the council (£490k). The remaining amount requested from the CSSB for 2019/20 is £1,920,240. This is an increase of £85,820 compared to 2017/18, when funding of £1,810,210 was agreed.

1.5.6 Examples of statutory functions that are included in this amount are:

- Strategic planning for the whole of the education service (sections 13 15B of the Education Act 1996) including the appointment of a Director of Children's Services (section 18 Children Act 2004)
- Preparation of the school funding formula and individual school/academy budget allocations (Local Government Act 1972) and inclusion of income and expenditure pertaining to education within the Authority's annual statement of accounts

- Performance of internal audit and other tasks necessary for the discharge of the Chief Financial Officer's responsibilities under S151 of the Local Government Act 1972
- Provision of information to or at the request of the Secretary of State (S29 of the 1996 Education Act)
- Making arrangements to identify children not receiving education (section 436A Education Act 1996)
- Issuing a code for penalty notices to address poor attendance and administer the penalty notice regime in accordance with the Education Regulations 2007 (and subsequent amendments); issuing written notices, school attendance orders and exercising the power to prosecute a parent for a child's non-attendance (section 446& 437 of the Education Act 1996). This can also include applying for an Education Supervision Order (section 447 of the Act)
- Management of the capital programme, including preparation and review of an Asset Management Plan and negotiation and management of private finance initiatives

#### Historic commitments

- 1.5.7 Historic commitments are subject to a limitation of no new commitments or increases in expenditure from 2018/19. The amounts requested for 2019/20 are as follows and have either stayed the same or reduced since 2018/19.
- 1.5.8 The borrowing costs of capitalised equal pay claims that were paid between 2007 and 2012 has now been repaid, therefore there is no requirement for this budget in 2019/20.
- 1.5.9 Prudential borrowing (amount requested £515,000). This budget supports borrowing costs in relation to the ongoing debt repayment from the 2004/05 primary capital program, and is paid back over 25 years.
- 1.5.10 Headteacher Support Service (amount requested £54,410). This service provides a confidential listening and support service for all primary and special school Headteachers, and acting Headteachers. The service is provided by two members of staff in a job share post.
- 1.5.11 School support staff training (amount requested £46,330). This service sources, organises and co-ordinates training for school support staff. The service also provides induction training for school support staff. The service is provided by one member of staff.
- 1.5.12 Carbon reduction officer (amount requested £30,000). This budget funds officer time from the Projects, Programmes and Procurement Unit who support the project management of schemes initiated with the purpose of lowering the embodied carbon

emissions within the school estate.

Ongoing Central functions

- 1.5.13 Admissions Service – for 2019/20, it is proposed to increase the funding from this service from £1,160,640 to £1,376,290. £20,650 of this is to partly cover the unavoidable increases in pay award and superannuation. The remaining increase is as a result of the DSG grant conditions which state that local authorities must treat maintained schools and academies equally when using funding from the CSSB. Currently, Leeds charges schools who have their own admissions board. As this cannot continue due to the service being funded by the CSSB, an additional £195k is requested to fund the loss of income and additional staff required to carry out this service free of charge for schools who currently do not access this service.
- 1.5.14 Servicing of Schools Forum – this budget supports the administration and running of Schools Forum and associated sub groups. This service has not changed, but as a result of unavoidable inflationary costs, it is proposed to increase funding from £29,740 to £30,330.
- 1.5.15 The ESFA has agreed with a number of agencies to purchase a single national licence for all state funded schools in England. A full list of licences included in the single national licence is available on their website. The ESFA will pay the agencies and provide the service to local authorities. For Leeds this amounts to £552,700 in 2018/19 (a 5.2% increase). This arrangement covers maintained schools and academies and local authorities are allowed to hold the budget centrally rather than include it in school budgets. This item does not require Schools Forum approval.
- 1.5.16 Schools Forum is therefore requested to approve the amounts summarised below, totalling £4.525m centrally for ESG retained duties, ongoing central functions, historic commitments, and to note the increase in the charge for the single national licence.

	2018/19 (for information) £	2019/20 (for approval) £
<b>Former ESG Retained Duties</b>	1,810,210	1,920,240
<b>Historic Commitments</b>		
Equal pay borrowing	499,340	0
Prudential borrowing	515,000	515,000
Headteacher support service	54,410	54,410
School support staff training	46,330	46,330
Carbon reduction officer	30,000	30,000
<b>Ongoing Responsibilities</b>		
Admissions service	1,160,790	1,376,290

Schools forum	29,740	30,330
ESFA central licences (for information only, no vote required by Schools Forum)	525,180	552,700
<b>Total Central School Services Block</b>	<b>4,671,000</b>	<b>4,525,300</b>

1.5.17 At the November 2018 meeting, Schools Forum supported our proposal to transfer up to £800k to the High Needs Block. At that time the exact amount was subject to confirmation of the costs and funding relating to the Central School Services Block. These figures have now been confirmed and we will be able to transfer the full £800k to the High Needs Block for 2019/20.

## 2 Recommendations

2.1 Schools Forum is asked to note and provide a view on the proposed use of the additional High Needs Block funding to reduce the 2019/20 Schools Block transfer from £2.5m to £1.5m, increase the FFI unit rate for mainstream schools in 2019/20 from £600 to £650 and make a contribution to the DSG deficit.

- The ESFA has advised that Schools Forum members are not required to vote again on the Schools Block transfer as it is a reduction from the previously agreed amount.

2.2 Schools Forum is asked to note the arrangements for the school funding formula including the proposed additional PFI funding contribution by the council for 2019/20.

- The final decision on the formula will be taken by the Director of Children and Families in accordance with the council's decision making framework.

2.3 In relation to the Growth Fund for 2019/20, Schools Forum is asked to approve:

- a) The total Growth Fund of £2.9m, funded through £2.5m from the Schools Block in 2019/20 and £0.4m of a projected underspend of the 2018/19 Growth Funding that will be earmarked for use in 2019/20. The Growth Fund would be split between £2,360k for primary growth and £565k for secondary growth.
- b) The proposed criteria, which remain unchanged from 2018/19 apart from annual uplifts.
  - This is a Schools Forum decision. In the event that Schools Forum does not agree, the DfE is able to adjudicate if we request this.

2.4 In relation to the Central School Services Block, Schools Forum is asked to approve the amounts summarised below for 2019/20 (apart from the ESFA central licence charge, which does not require approval).

- This is a Schools Forum decision. In the event that Schools Forum does not agree, the ESFA is able to adjudicate if we request this.

	2018/19 (for information) £	2019/20 (for approval) £
<b>Former ESG Retained Duties</b>	1,810,210	1,920,240
<b>Historic Commitments</b>		
Equal pay borrowing	499,340	0
Prudential borrowing	515,000	515,000
Headteacher support service	54,410	54,410
School support staff training	46,330	46,330
Carbon reduction officer	30,000	30,000
<b>Ongoing Responsibilities</b>		
Admissions service	1,160,790	1,376,290
Schools forum	29,740	30,330
ESFA central licences (for information only, no vote required by Schools Forum)	525,180	552,700
<b>Total Central School Services Block</b>	<b>4,671,000</b>	<b>4,525,300</b>

**2.5** In relation to the Central School Services Block, Schools Forum is asked to note that following confirmation of funding and costs, the proposed transfer to the High Needs Block will be £800k.

- The final decision on this transfer will be taken by the Director of Children and Families in accordance with the council's decision making framework.