

CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK FUNDING 2025-26

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Early Years & Schools Forum (the Forum) approval to centrally retain funding within the Central School Services Block (CSSB) of the 2025-26 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Information and Advice

2. The CSSB is funding allocated to LAs to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies in England. CSSB funding is split into two elements: funding for ongoing responsibilities and funding for historic commitments. For 2025/26 Nottinghamshire County Council's allocation is £5.745 million
3. The element of funding within CSSB that local authorities receive for historic commitments, made prior to 2013 to 2014, continues to be reduced. In 2025 to 2026 historic commitments funding has been reduced again by 20%.
4. For 2025/26 additional funding is being rolled into the CSSB which was provided separately in 2024-25. This relates to funding for centrally employed teachers, through the Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant (TPECG) and the Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG).
5. As prescribed in the DfE's Schools Operational Guide 2025/26; the local authority is required to seek approval from the Forum to centrally retain funding within the Central School Services Block (CSSB) of the DSG. Attached at **Appendix A** to this report is a list of the central budgets the Local Authority is seeking approval to retain.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Forum:

- 1) Approve the Local Authority's application to centrally retain funding within the Central School Services Block for the services set out at **Appendix A**.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Appendix A

2025-26 Centrally Held Funding

Description	Note	Schools Forum	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	Summary
Contribution to combined budgets	1	Agreement	476	381	305	Educational Psychology Service
Termination of Employment Costs	1	Agreement	1000	1000	1000	On-going pension commitments for former teachers
Schools Admissions		Agreement	1376	1348	1360	Staffing and running costs
Schools Forum		Agreement	3	3	3	Direct costs and officer time
Responsibilities of LA for all schools	2	Agreement	1712	1723	1723	1. School asset management, 2. Education welfare services 3. Statutory and regulatory duties (Schools Operational Guide 2025-26)
Central licences negotiated by Secretary of State		For Information	733	834	918	
Employer Pension Contributions for Centrally Employed Teachers		For Information	199	199	199	
Former Core School Budget Grant - Central Teachers		For Information	-	-	237	
Total Funding Allocation - CSSB			5499	5488	5745	
SEN Transport	1	Agreement	1764	1764	1764	Funded through High Needs Block but requires Forum approval

Notes

1. The budget cannot exceed the value agreed in 2013.
2. Former retained element of the Education Services Grant