

## **CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK FUNDING 2026-27**

### **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 2026-27 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 2026/27 Nottinghamshire County Council's allocation is £7.7 million.
3. In 2026-27, funding is being rolled into the CSSB which was provided separately in 2025-26 in respect of centrally employed staff, through the National Insurance Contributions (NICs) grant and the Schools Budget Support grant (SBSG)

	<b>Ongoing Responsibilities</b>				
	<b>Unit Funding</b>	<b>Pupil Numbers</b>	<b>Allocation £000</b>	<b>Historic Commitment £000</b>	<b>Total CSSB £000</b>
2025/26	£ 43.26	113,710	4,919	1,000	5,919
2026/27	£ 61.00	112,449	6,859	800	7,659

\*£61 unit funding 2026/27 includes £19.30 per pupil rolled in for NIC and SBSG

4. As per the DfE's Schools Operational Guide 2026/27 the element of funding within CSSB that local authorities receive for historic commitments, made prior to 2013 has been reduced by 20%. However the guide also states that *'We will continue to protect the elements of CSSB relating to prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs that were in place prior to April 2013, in recognition of the time required for such costs to unwind.'* NCC officers have therefore requested that this reduction is reinstated. The request is pending approval.
5. As prescribed in the DfE's Schools Operational Guide 2026/27; 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

### 2026-27 Centrally Held CSSB Funding

Description	Type	Note	Schools Forum	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Summary
Contribution to combined budgets	Historic Commitment	1	Agreement	305	244	Contribution to Education Psychology Service
Termination of Employment Costs	Historic Commitment	1	Agreement	1,000	800	On-going pension commitments for former teachers. Pending query to Dfe see para 4
Schools Admissions	On-going responsibility		Agreement	1,360	1,368	Staffing and running costs
Schools Forum	On-going responsibility		Agreement	3	3	Direct costs and officer time
Responsibilities of LA for all schools	On-going responsibility	2	Agreement	1,773	1,843	1. School asset management (£0.43 million) 2. Education welfare services (£0.76 million) 3. Statutory and regulatory duties (Schools Operational Guide 2026-27) (£0.653 million)
Central licences negotiated by Secretary of State	On-going responsibility		For Information	918	1,010	TBC by DfE
Legacy Grants Rolled in 2025/26 for centrally employed staff costs	On-going responsibility		For Information	559	576	
NIC and SBSG rolled in 2026/27 for centrally employed staff costs	On-going responsibility		For Information	-	1,816	
<b>Total Funding Allocation - CSSB</b>				<b>5,918</b>	<b>7,659</b>	
SEN Transport	Historic Commitment	1	Agreement	1,764	1,764	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