

Meeting / Date	SCHOOLS FORUM 28 March 2019	Agenda Item	6b
Report Title	Dedicated Schools Grant 2019/20 – Budget lines as per S251 and Benchmarking Data		
Decision/Discussion/ Information	For Discussion and Noting		
Appendices	Appendix A1: S251 2018-19 Gross Budget comparison - London Statistical Neighbour Authorities Appendix B1: S251 2018-19 Gross Budget per capita comparison - London Statistical Neighbour Authorities and England		

Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Schools Forum with S251 Budget lines as per the announced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2019/20.

Introduction

2. The Department for Education (DfE) announced allocations of the gross DSG to local authorities on 17 December 2018. The amount allocated to this authority is £335.395m. This allocation is before recoupment for academies and deductions for high needs places. Appendix A1 shows the gross DSG in 2019/20 across S251 lines including Sixth Form Funding of £5.000m.
3. An additional £250m was allocated nationally to support High Needs budgets. Barnet received £0.964m in 2018/19 and will receive the same additional amount again in 2019/20. At this stage it is unclear whether the funding will continue in future years.
4. Recoupment and High Needs place deductions will continue to be made the DSG to reflect direct funding by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Deductions for post 16 placements into the Sixth Form Funding will continue up to August 2019, after which this adjustment will be mainstreamed into the DSG.
5. In addition, there will be adjustments to the Early Years Block as both the January 2019 and January 2020 census inform actual participation numbers for 3 to 4 year olds.
6. Appendices A1 and B1 shows benchmarking data for 2018/19. This shows Barnet compared to London Statistical Neighbour Authorities gross budget and gross budget per capita. Comparisons are made on gross S251 allocations and net costs per-capita. The per-capita schedules include England and London Statistical Neighbours' averages, maxima and minima.

Recommendation

The Schools Forum is asked to note and comment on S251 Budget allocations and benchmarking data.