

10. 2021-22 Central Services Schools Block-Retained Duties

- 1.1 The Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) is formulated to cover both historic commitments and ongoing responsibilities. The former are fixed amounts committed in 2012/13 and cannot be increased under the National Funding Formula. The Department for Education (DfE) expects that historical commitments will reduce over time and have indicated that there will a revised basis in assessing allocations for these from 2021/22.
- 1.2 A historical commitment to combined budgets will continue with contributions from the CSSB Block to general fund budgets of £0.116m towards Safer Families and £0.180 towards the CAF Team. This is a reduction of 20% compared to 2020/21 which is in line with the DfE's policy to reduce this income annually.
- 1.3 On-going responsibilities includes funding for duties for all pupils within the Local Authority (LA) boundary, Admissions and Appeals, Schools Forum administration and Copyright Licensing, Education Welfare Service, Asset Management and Statutory/Regulatory Duties. The final three budgets have increased in line with the CSSB income from the block, which is governed by pupil numbers in the Borough. These three budgets relate to central expenditure previously funded by the discontinued Education Services Grant (ESG).
- 1.4 The table below shows figures for 2020/2021 and 2021/22. Schools Forum is required to approve central items line by line, except for Copyright Licensing which is centrally negotiated and set by the DfE.

| | | 2021/22 | 2020/21 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | £m | £m |
| Historic Commitments | Safer Families | 0.116 | 0.146 |
| | CAF Team | 0.180 | 0.225 |
| Ongoing Responsibilities | Schools Admissions | 0.401 | 0.401 |
| | Servicing of Schools Forum | 0.034 | 0.034 |
| | Copyright Licensing Costs | 0.287 | 0.286 |
| | Education Welfare Service | 0.418 | 0.376 |
| | Asset Management | 0.037 | 0.033 |
| | Satutory/Regulatory Duties | 0.719 | 0.645 |
| | Total | 2.193 | 2.146 |

Recommendation

- V. Schools Forum is asked to approve expenditure lines that comprise the Central School Services Block.