

10. 2022-23 Central Schools Services Block -Agreement Line by Line

- 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 therefore have reduced allocations by 20% for 2022-23.
- 1.2 Ongoing responsibilities includes funding for duties for all pupils within the Local Authority (LA) boundary, admissions and appeals, Schools Forum administration and copyright licensing.
- 1.3 Schools Forum is required to approve Central Services Block amounts, except for Copyright Licensing, which is negotiated on behalf of all LAs by the DfE. The DfE published final allocations in December 2021 which were slightly higher than the indicative allocations published July 2021. Barnet's allocation increased £0.026m to total £2.265m.
- 1.4 The CSSB for 2022-23 is £2.266 million comprising a Historical commitment to combined budgets of £0.237 million (a reduction £0.059 million from 2021-22) and ongoing responsibilities of £2.028 million for:

		2022/23 £m	2021/22 £m
Historic Commitments	Safer Families	0.093	0.116
	CAF Team	0.144	0.18
Ongoing Responsibilities	School Admissions	0.401	0.401
	Servicing of Schools Forum	0.034	0.034
	Copyright Licensing Costs	0.289	0.287
	Education Welfare Service	0.465	0.419
	Asset Management	0.041	0.037
	Statutory/Regulatory Duties	0.798	0.719
TOTAL		2.265	2.193

- 1.5 The fall in funding for Historical Commitments will mean a £0.059m reduction in the charge for combined budgets from the General Fund. The final figure for ongoing responsibilities was based on the October 2021 census.
- 1.6 In addition to distributing the central schools services block funding as indicated above, it is proposed to increase central schools services funding by drawing on carried forward DSG underspend to provide one-off funding in 2022-23 to schools to support the extra costs of supporting children of families who are new arrivals from Hong Kong or who live in designated hotels for asylum seekers. These proposals are set out in the additional paper on 'Use of Carried Forward DSG balances'.

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