

Meeting/Date	<b>Schools Forum</b> 12 January 2023	Agenda Item No.	9
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>2023-24 Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)</b>		
Decision/ Discussion/ Update	Information and Decision		
Author	Sharon Palma – Head of Finance, Childrens and Family Services  Richard Cox – Interim DSG Finance Manager		
Appendices	None		
Summary	This report contains an update of the 2023-24 Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)		
Recommendations	Schools Forum is asked to note and approve the expenditure lines that comprise the Central School Services Block.		

### 1. Recommendation

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

### 2. Summary

The final CSSB for FY2023-24 has increased by £0.104m to £2.369m as compared to 2022-23. Where appropriate, the increase in budget has been pro-rated against the 2022-23 budget.

### 3. Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

3.1 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 2023-24.

3.2 Ongoing responsibilities includes funding for duties for all pupils within the Local Authority (LA) boundary, admissions and appeals, Schools Forum administration and copyright licensing.

3.3 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 2022 which shows the cost to Barnet is £0.335m.

3.4 The CSSB for 2023-24 is £2.369 million comprising a Historical commitment to combined budgets of £0.190m (a reduction £0.047m from 2022-23) and ongoing responsibilities of £2.179m. The budgets are summarised below:

		2023-24	2022-23
		£m	£m
<b>Historic Commitments</b>	Safer Families	0.075	0.093
	CAF Team	0.115	0.144
<b>Ongoing Responsibilities</b>	School Admissions	0.425	0.401
	Servicing of Schools Forum	0.036	0.034
	Copyright Licensing Costs	0.335	0.289
	Education Welfare Service	0.493	0.465
	Asset Management	0.043	0.041
	Statutory/Regulatory Duties	0.847	0.798
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2.369</b>	<b>2.265</b>

3.5 The fall in funding for Historical Commitments will mean a £0.047m reduction in the charge for combined budgets from the General Fund. The final figure for ongoing responsibilities was based on the October 2022 census.