

Report Title	Revenue Report - February 2024
Meeting	Schools Forum
Date	20 February 2024
Chair	Jenny Sims
Report Author(s)	Carol Worne, Strategic Finance Business Partner, Sutton Council
Open/Exempt	Open

1 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) since the last meeting of the Forum.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the latest position on the DSG for 2023/24, as at January 2024 (month 10).

3 Background

- 3.1 Spending decisions on the DSG were agreed by the Schools Forum in February 2023 for the financial year 2023/24. This report refers to issues that have arisen since the last meeting on 5th December 2023 and provides details of the latest DSG budget position for 2023/24.

4 DSG Budget 2023/24

- 4.1 The latest DSG allocation for 2023/24 is £121.467m, after academy recoupment (£142.814m), high needs place funding provision (£7.831m) and centralised NNDR (£1.576m) deductions.
- 4.2 Attached, at Appendix A, is a breakdown of the DSG for 2023/24 and variances as at January 2023. The highlighted areas in the high needs block indicate the SEN budget.
- 4.3 The DSG is currently forecasting a £3.186m overspend at month 10. This does not include an additional £1.4m that is expected to be charged to the High Needs Budget to cover the accumulated deficit at Sherwood Park School - with this included, the overspend will be £4.616m.
- 4.4 The overspend has reduced by £454k since month 8 mainly due to:
- £305k CSSB - £316k removed from the CSSB budget, which was added in month 8, but rejected by the Schools Forum at the December meeting.
 - £300k Early Years - underspend being forecast, due to a prior year adjustment for increased pupil numbers allocated in this financial year.

- £144k High Needs - overspend increase across several budget lines

4.5 The cumulative DSG Reserve at 1/4/23 was £1.487m, this will be used to offset the year end deficit, but it is fully expected that the DSG will move to a deficit position at 31/3/24.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Since 2018/19 the schools block funding for each local authority has been set by calculating notional allocations for each school according to the National Funding Formula (NFF) and these have then been aggregated and used to calculate a total allocation for each local authority.

6 Influence on the Council's Corporate Core Values and Objectives

6.1 One of the core values is partnership working. Setting the budget for the Dedicated Schools Grant, and considering related issues, is an important part of the budget process that fully involves schools as partners and particularly recognises the important role of the Schools' Forum.

7 Appendices

Appendix Letter	Appendix Title
A	DSG budget 2023/24 as at January 2024 (Month 10)