

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum Finance & SEN Working Group 23 September 2024

Schools Forum 17 October 2024

Core Schools Budget Grant

Purpose of report

1. To brief Schools Forum members on the recently announced Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG).

Background to the CSBG

2. Members of Schools Forum will be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) recently confirmed their acceptance of the School Teachers Review Body's recommendations for a pay award of 5.5% for Teachers and School Leaders.
3. At the same time as agreeing the pay award, the DfE announced a new grant to support schools for the 7-month period from September 2024 to March 2025. The CSBG will support schools with the existing cost pressures and those arising from the Teachers pay award and proposed Support Staff pay award.
4. Whilst the majority of funding will support mainstream schools and special schools, there will also be a smaller amount of funding to support Early Years and Post-16 cost pressures.
5. The grant will be rolled into core school funding for the 2025-26 financial year, as part of the National Funding Formula. For academy schools, a further tranche of funding will be payable from April 2025 to August 2025 to reflect their financial year cycle and ensure parity with maintained schools.

Funding Rates

6. The CSBG funding will follow the same formulaic approach adopted by the DfE over recent years for Teachers Pay and Pension Grants. Funding will comprise the following elements
 - a basic per-pupil rate with different rates for primary, key stage 3 and 4
 - a lump sum paid to all schools, regardless of pupil numbers
 - a per-pupil rate for pupils who are recorded as having been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years (FSM6), with different rates for primary and secondary pupils
 - a 'per place' funding rate for special schools

7. The base funding rates for the CSBG for the 2024 to 2025 financial year are set out in the table below.

Funding – Mainstream Schools	Funding Rate
Primary – per pupil funding	£76
Secondary – KS3 per pupil funding	£108
Secondary – KS4 per pupil funding	£122
Primary – FSM6 per pupil funding	£70
Secondary – FSM6 per pupil funding	£100
Lump Sum per school	£2,900

Funding Special Schools	Funding Rate
Per Place funding	£610

8. Mainstream schools will receive their funding in early December 2024 with allocations being based upon school data taken from the October 2023 census.
9. Special schools will receive their funding in two tranches, firstly in November 2024 and then again in March 2025. The second tranche will take account of any increases in 'place' numbers at special schools between the 2023 and 2024 academic years.

Will it Fully Fund the Pay Awards

10. The DfE has stated that the Teachers pay award of 5.5% will be fully funded in 2024-25 through the CSBG. However, this has been caveated by stating that the CSBG has been calculated to
“fully fund the teacher pay award and the support staff pay offer, at the national level, on top of the available headroom in schools’ existing budgets”
11. The DfE have not defined what is meant by the term *‘available headroom’* and therefore calculating allocations for Wiltshire schools would suggest that the pay awards will not be fully funded but that the CSBG represents a contribution to the additional cost pressures in schools.
12. For the 2024-25 financial year, Wiltshire schools were advised to budget for pay awards of
- a 3.5% award for Teaching Staff and
 - a flat rate uplift of £1,350 for Support Staff
13. Analysis of the impact of the pay awards and the CSBG grant has been prepared, as detailed in Appendix 1. (The Support Staff pay award is still only proposed and not formally agreed at this point)

14. The key points to note from the analysis are
- There are a number of factors that will come into play to determine whether the CSBG and the uplift in core funding in 2024-25 will fully fund the pay awards
 - The final pay award for Teachers is 2% higher than initially budgeted for by schools
 - The Support Staff pay award is based upon the employers proposed pay offer, still subject to agreement
 - The actual cost of the pay awards will exceed the budgeted pay awards creating an overall 'budget gap'
 - The 'budget gap' will be lower than the CSBG for all sizes of schools
 - The CSBG will not cover the full-cost of the pay awards but represents a contribution towards the additional pay costs being experienced by schools
 - The uplift in core funding of 1.4% for the 2024-25 year, will be required to support schools fully fund the staff pay awards
 - In some schools the 1.4% uplift in core funding, coupled with the CSBG, will be insufficient to fully fund the pay awards and these schools will need to draw upon existing resources to support the pay awards

Proposals

15. Schools Forum note the content of the report and the impact of the CSBG on individual school budgets.
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Appendix 1 – Impact of CSBG on Schools

Core Schools Budget Grant - Impact	Luckington Small School	Chapmanslade Small School	Derry Hill 1 Form Entry	Mere 1 Form Entry +	St Marys 15 Form Entry	Lyneham 15 Form Entry + RB	Christ Church 2 Form Entry	St Josephs Small Secondary	Abbeyfield Medium Secondary	Stonehenge Large Secondary
Number on Roll	45	99	209	225	312	335	431	601	714	1064
Teaching Staff (FTE)	3.26	5.7	8.28	10.6	14	17	17.9	42.01	48.72	62.12
Impact of budgeted 3.5% Uplift	£4,587	£7,232	£11,472	£14,172	£19,813	£22,012	£23,504	£58,762	£67,037	£82,990
Impact of Actual 5.5% Uplift	£7,208	£11,364	£18,027	£22,271	£31,136	£34,591	£36,935	£92,343	£105,350	£130,418
Cost Pressure of Higher Pay Award (Budget Gap)	£2,621	£4,132	£6,555	£8,100	£11,323	£12,580	£13,431	£33,581	£38,313	£47,427
Support Staff (FTE)	2.49	4.55	10.27	10.42	16.58	20.68	19.21	24.21	33.79	46.08
Budgeted Uplift of £1,350 + On Costs per FTE	£4,625	£8,452	£19,078	£19,356	£30,799	£38,415	£35,684	£44,972	£62,768	£85,598
Expected Uplift of £1,290 + On Costs per FTE	£4,420	£8,076	£18,230	£18,496	£29,430	£36,708	£34,099	£42,974	£59,979	£81,794
Cost Pressure of Lower Pay Award (Budget Gap)	-£206	-£376	-£848	-£860	-£1,369	-£1,707	-£1,586	-£1,999	-£2,790	-£3,804
Total Budgeted Pay Awards	£9,212	£15,684	£30,549	£33,528	£50,612	£60,427	£59,189	£103,735	£129,806	£168,588
Actual Pay Awards	£11,628	£19,441	£36,256	£40,767	£60,566	£71,299	£71,034	£135,317	£165,329	£212,211
Pay Awards Cost in excess of budget (Budget Gap)	£2,416	£3,756	£5,707	£7,239	£9,954	£10,872	£11,845	£31,582	£35,523	£43,623
Core Schools Budget Grant (CSBG)	£6,670	£11,334	£20,324	£22,660	£31,324	£31,166	£37,126	£85,500	£106,781	£139,712
Surplus CSBG above budgeted pay awards	£4,254	£7,578	£14,617	£15,421	£21,370	£20,294	£25,281	£53,918	£71,257	£96,089
Shortfall for covering Full Pay Award	-£4,958	-£8,107	-£15,932	-£18,107	-£29,243	-£40,133	-£33,908	-£49,817	-£58,548	-£72,499
School Budget 2024-25	£364,160	£565,712	£976,114	£1,049,071	£1,490,466	£1,564,933	£1,950,405	£3,900,454	£5,017,109	£6,527,133
Equivalent Budget 2023-24	£359,132	£557,902	£962,637	£1,034,587	£1,469,888	£1,543,327	£1,923,476	£3,846,602	£4,947,839	£6,437,015
Uplift in Core School Funding of 1.4%	£5,028	£7,811	£13,477	£14,484	£20,578	£21,607	£26,929	£53,852	£69,270	£90,118
Amount to be met from existing resources	£70	-£296	-£2,455	-£3,623	-£8,664	-£18,527	-£6,979	£4,035	£10,721	£17,619