

**West Northants Schools Forum: 13 December 2022**  
**Agenda Item 4**  
**2022-23 DSG Monitoring as at Quarter 2**

**List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Q2 2022-23 DSG Monitoring

**1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report provides an assessment of West Northamptonshire Council’s (WNC) financial performance against its approved 2022-23 DSG budget, incorporating key financial risks, issues and opportunities identified since 1 April 2022.

1.2 Table 1 shows the relevant responsibilities in relation to in year monitoring which is taken from the Education and Skills Funding Agency’s Schools Forum Powers and Responsibilities, published in March 2021.

1.3 There are no votes required in relation to this agenda item.

Table 1

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Schools forum</b>	<b>ESFA</b>
De-delegation – proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Forum disagrees with the Authority’s proposals
General Duties for maintained schools – proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Forum disagrees with the Authority’s proposals
Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund – proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Forum disagrees with the Authority’s proposals
Central Spend on Early Years and Central School Services – proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where Forum disagrees with the Authority’s proposals
Central Spend on High Needs – Decides	None, but good practice to Consult	None

**2 2022-23 Forecast Outturn**

2.1 Table 2 summarises the DSG forecast outturn and variance currently being estimated for this financial year. It highlights some increased service pressures against the high needs block and identified pressures relating to SEND against the early years block

which are demand led. The Council will seek to manage these pressures within year and across the medium term.

Table 2 – Forecast Outturn 2022-23 by DSG Block £m

<b>DSG Block</b>	<b>Gross Exp Budget *</b>	<b>Recoup -ment</b>	<b>Net Exp Budget</b>	<b>Forecast Net Spend</b>	<b>Q2 Var</b>	<b>Q1 Var</b>	<b>Move-ment</b>
Schools*	318.8	(253.2)	65.6	65.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Early Years Provision	26.6	0	26.6	26.8	0.2	0.0	0.2
High Needs	63.5	(16.0)	47.5	49.3	1.8	0.4	1.4
Central Schools Services Block*	4.2	0	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>413.1</b>	<b>(269.2)</b>	<b>143.9</b>	<b>145.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>

\*Includes carry forwards totalling £0.7m

2.2 The DSG is currently forecasting an overspend of £2.0m, with £1.8m overspend forecast in the high needs block and £0.2m in the early years block. This is an adverse movement of £1.6m from the prior reported position, based on the increased demand for services.

2.3 The pressure in the main relates to increased demand for educational placements, and out of county placements provision for pupils with SEND due to a growth in education, health and care plans, and a shortage of placements in county. The 2022-23 capital programme includes investment to increase resourced places in mainstream schools and special school expansions.

2.4 The early years block variance relates to demand above budgeted levels on the SEND inclusion fund for emerging and low-level needs.

2.5 DSG budgets are being reviewed to ensure that all the education elements of funded placements are accurately forecast.

2.6 Variances are detailed in appendix A to this report.

### **3 Financial implications**

3.1 The resource and financial implications of the WNC DSG budget are set out in the body of, and appendices to, this report.

### **4 Legal implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

### **5 Risks**

5.1 This report sets out the financial forecast and risks identified following the Quarter 2 review of the Council's DSG budgets.

## **6 Recommendations for Schools forum**

6.1 That Schools forum notes the forecast outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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