

Agenda Pack – Item 7

Date: 9 December 2021	Item 7	Type of report: Decision
Report title:	Dedicated Schools Grant - 2022-23 Retained Budgets	
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Executive Summary

This report starts to consider the 2022/23 budget for the schools block centrally retained and de-delegated budgets. The schools funding formula is considered in a separate paper on this agenda to avoid this report becoming over complex.

Schools Forum Actions

The Schools Forum is asked for a view on:

- i) the top-slices to the schools block in **Table 1** in **section 2.4**
 - a) **Growth Fund**
£100k to be set aside (no change from 2021-22)
 - b) **Falling Rolls Fund**
 - c) £300k to be set aside (an increase of £100k from 2021-22)
- ii) the de-delegated services individually detailed in **Table 3** in **section 3.6** by phase (mainstream representatives only). **The proposed total budget is £3.136m which is slightly lower than in 2021-22 which was £3.231m**
 - a) Contingency
 - b) School Improvement
 - c) Behaviour support services – Contribution to early help
 - d) Behaviour support services – Summerhouse
 - e) Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)
 - f) Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)
 - g) Staff costs supply cover (trade union)
- iii) Note the review taking place on the Central Services and the Education Support Services.

1.0 *Background*

- 1.1 The guidance surrounding central retentions and de-delegations are governed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) publication *Schools Revenue Funding 2022 to 2023 Operational Guide*.
- 1.2 Under the regulations the schools block of the DSG can only be held centrally for certain services as specified by the DfE and where Schools Forum agree to:
- de-delegate funding, by phase;
 - Centrally retain funding before allocating the formula.
- 1.3 The LA is required to submit to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) the provisional 2022-23 authority pro-forma by 21 January 2022. The pro-forma outlines the details of the local funding formula, including the agreed de-delegated budgets.
- 1.4 Further complications are involved, as generally services are accounted for as a whole rather than a specific funding source. Some of these services are then again sub-divided into statutory and non-statutory services, again each may have different funding sources. There is no clear dividing line and it is not black and white that an officer will be performing a statutory or non-statutory function or that it will relate to one service area. Indeed one phone call to a school may relate partly to a statutory service and part to a non-statutory service.
- 1.5 The main funding for which the Schools Forum are asked for decisions are from the following:

1.51 *Schools Block – top-slice*

Local authorities may set aside schools block funding to create a fund for growth and falling rolls. Once the top-slice has been made the remaining funding is distributed to schools. The top-sliced funds is open to both maintained and academy schools

1.52 *De-delegated services*

De-delegated services are for maintained schools only; funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or 'de-delegated', for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with schools forum approval. De-delegation does not apply to special schools, nursery schools, or PRUs. Where de-delegation has been agreed for maintained primary and secondary schools, the presumption is that we will offer the service on a buy-back basis to all schools and academies in Southwark which are not covered by the de-delegation.

There is a specific list of services which can be de-delegated set by the Department for Education.

1.53 *Education functions for maintained schools*

Local authorities are be able to fund services previously funded from the Education Services grant (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budgets shares with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum. The services involved are defined by legislation. In financial terms the process operates in a similar way to de-delegated services.

1.54 Central Retentions

These are funded from the Central School Services Block (CSSB) which is one of the four funding blocks of the Dedicated Schools Block. It is completely separate to the schools block and the schools formula. The funding for 2021/22 is £1.781m and is simply calculated by the ESFA as a rate of funding multiplied by the pupil numbers plus a historic element. The rate of funding is different for each authority. Southwark has no historic element. The funding is separate from the schools block and a saving here does not mean that the costs will be added to the schools block

Funding allocations across Inner London are as follow

Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2021 to 2022 schools block and central school services block		Final CSSB unit of funding	2021 to 2022 CSSB pupil count	Funding for historic commitments (£s)	Total central school services block (£s)
202	Camden	48.05	18,192	453,120	1,327,246
203	Greenwich	43.48	38,906	3,038,621	4,730,233
204	Hackney	44.06	30,057	615,040	1,939,337
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	62.56	16,721	2,266,976	3,313,011
206	Islington	52.44	20,485	527,360	1,601,594
207	Kensington and Chelsea	50.88	11,501	282,880	868,026
208	Lambeth	36.44	32,408	0	1,180,948
209	Lewisham	48.91	35,356	2,531,768	4,261,006
210	Southwark	47.24	37,719	0	1,781,822
211	Tower Hamlets	56.00	37,620	1,780,480	3,887,172
212	Wandsworth	46.94	28,188	1,362,560	2,685,705
213	Westminster	52.12	18,085	112,640	1,055,231

The CSSB covers funding allocated to local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in both maintained schools and academies in England. The CSSB has been created from two different funding streams: the schools block funding that was previously is held centrally by local authorities and the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG).

2. *Schools Block – top-slice*

2.1 Local authorities may set aside schools block funding to create a fund for growth and falling rolls. Once the top-slice has been made the remaining funding is distributed to schools. The top-sliced fund is open to both maintained and academy schools.

- Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy (Growth fund);
- A falling rolls fund

2.2 **Growth Fund**

These funds are managed by the schools in financial difficulty panel, which comprises three head teachers. The growth fund has been reduced to £100k over the past two years, it is used to contribute to the cost of running of bulge classes where these have been set up. Bulge classes are only funded when need has been identified and agreed with the LA. Some schools are still expanding in the Secondary sector, although most of the funding for this is built into the schools funding formula by using estimated pupil numbers. While the latter is the approach for permanent expansions to year groups, the growth fund is for bulge classes that do not permanently expand all the year groups. It is a one-off class. It is proposed to keep a small amount aside as an emergency provision.

2.3 Falling rolls funds

This fund is also managed by the schools in financial difficulty panel. The criteria for which are set by national regulations although there is limited scope to adjust them locally. The current level of the fund is £200k, with the schools re-organisation programme, some schools in Southwark will start to see their pupil rolls rise. The impact is slightly unknown but it is proposed to increase the fund to £300k

2.4 The proposals are summarised in the following table

Table 1: Schools block – top-slice

Budget	Approved 2021-22 budget £000	Proposed 2022-23 budget £000	Comments
Growth fund	100	100	The funding has been left at the same level for 2021/22 and provides for two bulge classes in case of emergencies.
Schools Falling Rolls	200	300	The purpose of the fund is to provide support to those schools whose rolls are falling only for them to rise in the following years. With a number of potential re-organisations the funding has been increased to £300k, which means 6 schools can be potentially funded rather than 4 schools.
	300	400	

3.0 De-delegated Services

- 3.1 This funding is initially allocated to all schools, as part of the Southwark School Funding Formula. For maintained primary and secondary schools funding in some instances can be de-delegated or “returned” to the Local Authority to be held and managed centrally. De-delegation is not applicable to academies, special schools, nurseries or PRU’s. For PRUs, nurseries and special schools to benefit from these services there would need to be “buy back” into service. Nursery schools and special schools (except hospital schools) agreed to buy back into the fund for contingencies and maternity in this current year (2020/21). Academies can buy into some funds but not others, specifically maternity and contingencies.

- 3.2 The Schools Forum are required to formally agree the de-delegated budgets annually, with members for primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools required to decide separately for each phase. The decision applies to all maintained schools within that phase.
- 3.3 Funding for de-delegated services is automatically allocated to academies as part of the schools funding formula and they are able to make their own arrangements for these services. Academies may choose to purchase services from the LA, where they are offered.
- 3.5 Last year (2021/22) the Schools Forum agreed to de-delegate funding for the following services:

Table 2 – 2021-22 de-delegated services

Budget	Report Section	Basis	Actual 2021-22 estimated Budget £000	Actual 2021-22 Primary School Rate £	Actual 2021-22 Secondary School Rate £
Contingency (now excluding the intervention Fund)	4.1	AWPU	502	27	27
School Improvement	4.2	Lump Sum	198	3,300	0
		and			
		AWPU	257	14	14
Behaviour support services – Contribution to early help	4.3	FSM Ever 6	359	64.55	N/A
Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	4.4	FSM Ever 6	1039	187.00	N/A
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	4.5	FSM Ever 6	55	9.81	N/A

Budget	Report Section	Basis	Actual 2021-22 estimated Budget £000	Actual 2021-22 Primary School Rate £	Actual 2021-22 Secondary School Rate £
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	4.6	AWPU	747	40.15	40.15
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	4.7	AWPU	74	4.00	4.00
Total Proposed de-delegated budget			3,231		

*Schools in Financial Difficulty £466k, Audit £36k.

- 3.6 The proposed funding for 2022/23 are shown in the table 3 below. The overall principle in drawing up this proposal has been to reduce the total amount to be de-delegated in line with the reduction in pupil numbers. This means the total sum de-delegated would £3.136m which is slightly lower than in 2021-22 which was £3.231m

The rationale for the proposals are shown below:

Table 3 – Proposals for de-delegation of services

Budget	Report Section	Basis	Proposed 2021-22 estimated Budget £000	Proposed 2021-22 Primary School Rate £	Proposed 2021-22 Secondary School Rate £
Contingency (now excluding the intervention Fund)	4.1	AWPU	686	38	38
School Improvement	4.2	Lump Sum	363	6,300	0
		and			
		AWPU	249	14	14

Budget	Report Section	Basis	Proposed 2021-22 estimated Budget £000	Proposed 2021-22 Primary School Rate £	Proposed 2021-22 Secondary School Rate £
Behaviour support services – Contribution to early help	4.3	FSM Ever 6	184	32	N/A
Behaviour support services – Summerhouse	4.4	FSM Ever 6	1,003	187.00	N/A
Free school meals eligibility (primary schools only)	4.5	FSM Ever 6	52	9.81	N/A
Staff costs supply cover (maternity scheme)	4.6	AWPU	523	30	30
Staff costs supply cover (trade union)	4.7	AWPU	76	4	4
Total Proposed de-delegated budget			3,136		

4.0 De-delegation – services analysis

4.1 Contingencies

This includes funding for Schools in Financial Difficulty and school audits. The Schools in financial difficulty funding is allocated by a panel of three head teachers supported by Local Authority officers. The panel sits at regular intervals and schools put forward applications for funding when considering re-organisations within their school.

The fund is coming under increasing pressure as more schools find it difficult to balance their budgets. At the moment, generally when the panel agree a case, 100% of the costs are met, however with the number of cases coming through this is unlikely to be possible going forward. Conversely if a school is in financial difficulty and are already making redundancies, it is not always easy or possible for schools to meet the redundancy costs unless they reduce their costs even

further. On the other hand it seems unfair on those schools who are managing their budgets well to penalise them by increasing the fund available for the schools in financial difficulty panel.

The fund also makes a contribution to the Internal Audit service which is undertaken by an external provider. This is different to the audit of the external account that is undertaken on an annual basis. This budget funds the school internal audit programme, to ensure that all schools in Southwark are audited once every three years. This provides assurances to schools, governing bodies and the Local Authority on the financial controls in place in schools. It is not proposed to reduce the funding rates, although discussions will be held on the audit programme.

At the meeting on 17 June 2021 we saw the maternity funding was underspending and the initial look this year's implies that it will continue. It is proposed to re-purpose the funding and transfer £200k from the maternity fund to the Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund.

Special schools and Nursery schools can buy into this fund at rates per pupil of £190 and £72.

While an alternative would be reduce the amount paid out to each school making an application to the fund. For example rather than pay out 100% of the redundancy costs only say 70% would be paid out. This is unlikely to be within the regulations that a good caused is needed for not meeting the cost.

4.2 Additional school improvement services

Last year the traded service level agreement with schools came to an end, and a different approach to funding the service was adopted for a temporary period of a year. The funding basis agreed was through the de-delegation process of a standard contribution of £3,300. The former intervention fund that had been a long standing de-delegation item continued, but was merged under the school improvement banner.

A consultation was issued on the 29 October 2021 on the schools monitoring and brokerage grant (£330k), which is used to support the Learning and Achievements team. This is a second consultation on the grant. It was hoped that this consultation would in particular allow LAs flexibility in how they carry out their School Improvement functions whilst prioritising educational recovery from Covid. Also it would provide an indication of the types of activity that an LA should undertake in order to demonstrate compliance with the grant conditions. It was somewhat concerning that this was not provided and the plan was that grant would be ceased. As an alternative the consultation allows schools to provide the funding to replace the grant.

The consultation issued by the department proposed to cease this grant, subject to the outcome of the consultation, with effect from the start of FY 2023-24, phased so that it would be reduced to 50% of the current amount on a per school basis in FY 2022-23. The grant would be ended with effect from the start of FY 2023-24. This means that while the grant this year is £330k, for 2022/23 it will be £165k and then in 2022/23 there will be no grant.

The DfE are proposing that the service funded through de-delegation but there is no funding added to the schools block to meet this new burden on schools.

The timing of this consultation and the continued requirement to return the calculated 2022/23 schools budget to the Department by the third week in January is not helpful.

We are seeking the Schools Forum views on two options

Option 1 – Increase de-delegated fund

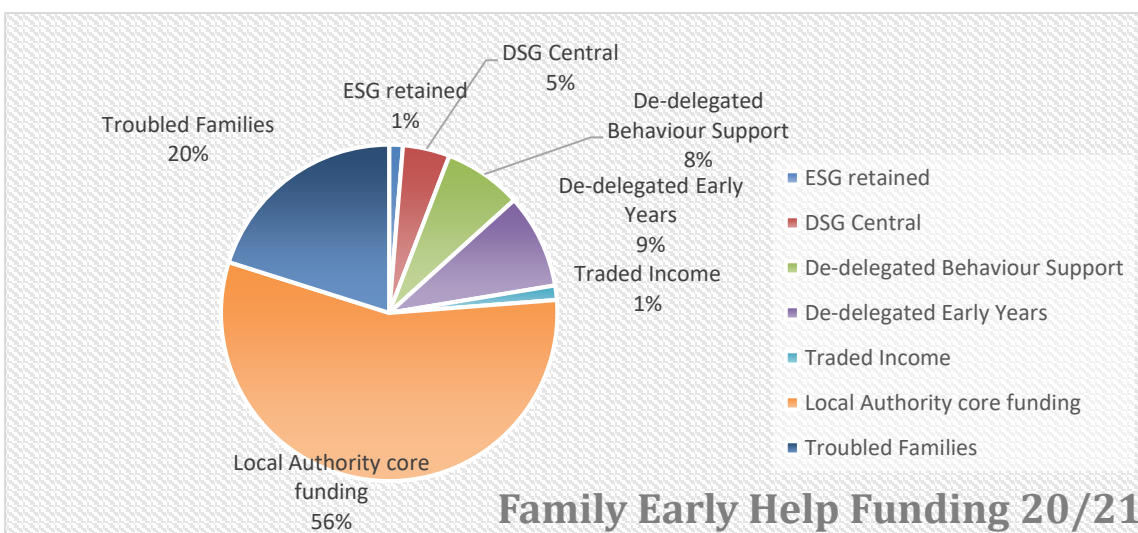
Increase the de-delegated amount from schools, we would need to increase the amount from the current £3,300 to £6,300 in 2022/23 and in 2023/24 to £9,300.

Option 2 – To use as a source of funding the amount de-delegated for Family Early Help as an alternative

To keep the amount of funding de-delegated from schools next year at the same level as this year but to prioritise the use – the potential option would be, rather than de-delegated the £300k for Family Early Help to use it for school improvement, thus keeping the take from schools the same. This to be phased over two years in line with the grant reductions.

4.3 Behaviour support services - Contribution to early help service

The behaviour support grant is one of multiple income sources for our Family Early Help (FEH) Service located within statutory Children’s Services and managed alongside the Youth Offending Service.



FEH includes four teams in the Under 11 service wrapped around Primary Schools and including the support provided by Children & Family Centres in localities. The 11+ service also has 4 teams with the addition of an Education Inclusion Team who lead on statutory education welfare duties. A parenting team directly deliver at least 3 parenting groups per term and now manage an Empowering Parents Empowering Communities Hub which supports parents to train to deliver evidence based EPEC programmes. Each school has a Single Point of Contact and thresholds to access whole family support are lower for maintained schools or trading schools. However **all** schools have access to this family support for children at risk of permanent exclusion or where there are 3 family risk factors **and** attendance issues. Additional resources co-located within Family Early Help include the LA funded Early Help CAMHS team, a specialist school nurse; plus links to the YOS and a number of third sector agencies (e.g. Chance UK, St Giles, Young Carers).

During C-19 the Team Around the School model has been offered to all schools to ensure we work together to support those children most at risk of non attendance and poor educational outcomes.

In the financial year 2019/20 the FEH service worked with 1765 children; 57% male and 65% BAME. 10% of the caseload had received a Fixed Term Exclusion and 30% had special needs as identified by the school census. 56% of those worked with were eligible for Free School Meals – however 86% live in the top 30% of deprived areas and 25% in the top decile. Education is the largest referral source into FEH at 30% with Health making up 27% and Children’s Social Care 16% highlighting the important step down/across role of FEH for statutory services.

Age groups of referrals indicate the spread of concern:

- 25% Under 5
- 41% Primary age
- 35% Secondary age

4.4 Behaviour support services - Summerhouse

Summerhouse Behaviour Support Service and Provision is the Local Authority Service which offers SEMH intervention for primary pupils at risk of permanent exclusion from Southwark mainstream schools. Interventions are tailored specifically to the individual pupil by specialist staff who have proven expertise and skills in this discrete area. It is directly responsible for the reduced number of fixed term exclusions and eliminating the need for primary permanent exclusions within the borough.

On average over the last three academic years:

- 86% of pupils returned to their mainstream primary schools and/or on to a mainstream secondary school.
- 78% of Southwark primary schools made referrals to Summerhouse resulting in at least one placement in the provision.
- Pupils from 49 maintained schools and 7 academies attended Summerhouse
- Nearly all placements were for at least two terms.
- Only two pupils returned to Summerhouse sometime after their placement had ended; then on to a specialist school setting.
- No pupils were permanently excluded from their mainstream schools during or after their placement at Summerhouse.

Growing pressures in recent years are affecting schools’ capacity and ability to identify and support an increasing number of pupils’ complex needs (particularly SEMH and developmental difficulties). Summerhouse has a track record of providing early interventions for pupils, school staff and parents to support stakeholders with the complex needs of its pupils. Referrals to Summerhouse have steadily increased for its specialist knowledge, skills and support. Summerhouse continues to respond to the changing landscape of mainstream school challenges ensuring permanent exclusions remain a very rare occurrence and pupils are better prepared emotionally and academically for the next phase of their education.

Summerhouse is one of the services that is currently being reviewed as part the inclusion and exclusion work stream suggested in the High Needs Sub Group report. It is right that all SEND services are reviewed as part of the high needs deficit recovery plan. It would be advisable to

allow that review conclude and determine the shape of the service going forward rather than to hastily make changes at this point in time which maybe counter productive going forward.

It is with this in mind it is proposed to continue on with the delegation at its current funding rate although accepting that this is a real terms reduction to the service as there is no inflation and the pupils with ever 6 free school meals is calculated are reducing.

4.5 Free School Meals Eligibility Team.

The Free School Meals (FSM) service provides confirmation of families eligible for free school meals using the Central Government (DWP) Benefit Hub for 70 maintained schools through de-delegation and a further eight on a traded service basis. As at October 2020, 13,173 Southwark children were eligible for FSM – 1,600 more than recorded in the January 2020 Census. This has included a significant uptake linked to Covid where either, families applied so that they would be able to receive support with meals through the first lockdown or, they became eligible due to a drop in family income.

In addition to FSM eligibility checks, the service includes:

- Confirmation to schools of children included on the FSM protection scheme until 31 March 2023
- Provision of FSM and Census training package to school based staff
- Information and advice to schools regarding checks, returns and changes to legislation/process.
- Responding to parent queries relating to vouchers/support through the Covid period
- Processing of clothing grants/vouchers
- Support with Southwark Stats and assistance linked to Census data matching.

As this service is provided by the LA and linked to the Census, school claims are not subjected to audits by the DfE, neither do they need to manage investigations with the DWP when eligibility queries arise – this is all included in the service.

Benchmarking the provision Southwark's was in past years high in relation to other authorities, the rate has now been reduced to the average level across London.

4.6 Supply Cover (Maternity cover)

This allows a school to claim back some of the cost for replacing when staff go on maternity & adoption leave. It acts as an insurance scheme. Payments for the following categories of staff where classroom based

- Deputy Head (with classroom responsibilities)
- Teachers
- Special schools' support assistants
- Learning Support Assistants for specific statemented pupils only
- Nursery nurses

The payout rate is currently set at 70%, the fund has of recent years balanced.

As we saw above it is proposed to transfer £200k of this fund to the schools in financial difficulty fund and the funding rates adjusted accordingly. Special schools and Nursery schools can buy into this fund at rates per pupil of £106 and £17.

While it is suggest to transfer this underspend to the contingency, alternatives would be to increase the maternity contribution rate of 70% or to reduce the overall de-delegation from schools.

4.7 Trade union duties

The amount de-delegated is slightly reduced at £74k for 2022-23 and this is supporting the release of teachers to undertake trade union duties. The funding pay out rate will continue as agreed previously with Schools Forum at £280 per day.

5 Within the Central school services block (CSSB) and Education functions for maintained schools

5.1 Central school services block

The CSSB forms one of the four spending blocks of the Dedicated Schools Grant. It provides funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies. Southwark currently spend all but of £100k of this, the balance of which is transferred to the high needs block.

The CSSB was created from two different funding streams: the schools block funding that was held centrally by local authorities and the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG) which no longer exists. While the Local Authority proposes how much is spent on the headings the Schools Forum decides. In the event of a dispute the Department of Education adjudicates where schools forum does not agree with the local authority. If the Schools Forum disputes the amounts it would need to consider the areas with the defined legislation where the Local Authority needed to refocus its attention.

A little like Learning and Achievement there is a cross over of funding streams for services around the central retained budgets and the Education functions budget. Expenditure is not matched against one or the other.

The former (CSSB) relates to statutory and regulatory duties for all schools in the borough regardless of whether they are maintained, free or academies. The later, Education functions, relates to those duties for maintained schools only. Hence the funding for statutory and regulatory duties for all schools is met from the central schools service block, while those services for maintained schools are funded by an adjustment to each schools budget.

5.2 Education functions for maintained schools

Local authorities are be able to fund services previously funded from the Education Services grant (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budgets shares with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum. As we have seen there is a cross over with the central support services block expenditure.

The current year's budget amounts to £327k, which is an amount per pupil of £16.43. The overall level of funding has reduced since the start of the fall in pupil numbers and schools converting to academies.

5.3 Combined Expenditure Analysis

The funding is used in a number of ways and covers some of the costs the Education Management team, Family Early Help, Education Welfare Service, National Curriculum assessment, Standing advisory council on religious education SACRE, Finance Team, Corporate overheads, Human Resources, Data analysis, Property Management.

A strategic review of all central Local Authority expenditure supported by the DSG is currently being undertaken and due to be complete by the end of this calendar year. The review findings will be reported to the School Forum in January 2022 including the impact of the draft proposals set out in this report and future year allocations.

Table 6 Benchmarking wise spend is linked as noted above to the Education Functions comparison on a per pupil basis).

2019-20 Budget LA Table (Net) £ per capita										
	1.5.1 Education welfare service (B)	1.5.2 Asset managem ent (B)	1.5.3 Statutory/ Regulatory duties (B)	1.6.1 Central support services (B)	1.6.2 Education welfare service (B)	1.6.3 Asset managem ent (B)	1.6.4 Statutory/ Regulatory duties (B)	1.6.5 Premature retirement cost/ Redundanc y costs (new provisions) (B)	1.6.6 Monitoring national curriculum assessment t (B)	TOTAL
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	£4	£3	£9	£0	£0	£1	£2	£1	£0	£20
Inner London Average	£4	£1	£6	£1	£1	£0	£2	£1	£0	£17
202 Camden	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£11	£0	£0	£11
203 Greenwich	£15	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£15
204 Hackney	£1	£2	£10	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£13
206 Islington	£10	£4	£10	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£24
207 Kensington and Chelsea	£0	£0	£9	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£9
208 Lambeth	£5	£0	£18	£6	£1	£1	£3	£0	£0	£34
209 Lewisham	£9	£5	£6	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£20
210 Southwark	£4	£1	£9	£0	£1	£0	£6	£0	£0	£21
211 Tower Hamlets	£5	£1	£8	£2	£4	£1	£6	£5	£0	£32
212 Wandsworth	£0	£3	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£6	£0	£9
213 Westminster	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0

Note

The data in the table above excludes one local authority who spend is quoted at £86, which seemed high and was skewing the averages without the clarification needed that it was genuine spend

8 Summary - Centrally retained items

For summary purposes these are the services and proposed budgets for next year

Table 7 centrally retained items

Budget	Approved 2020-21 budget £000	Proposed 2021-22 budget £000	Comments
LA duties for all schools	600	600	This relates to statutory and regulatory duties for all schools in the borough regardless of whether they are maintained, free or academies.
Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils	294	294	LA proposes to continue to top-slice the schools budget to contribute towards the educational costs of looked after children that Southwark is responsible for.
Admissions	623	623	Admissions is a statutory LA responsibility and therefore funding cannot be delegated to schools to carry out this function.
Servicing of Schools Forum	15	15	LA proposes to continue to retain funding of £15,000 in 2020-21 to cover the costs of servicing the Schools Forum operation including clerking and working groups. It is not proposed to increase this contribution.
Total	1,532	1,532	

6 Summary - Education functions

As seen above the Local Authority continues to hold responsibilities for maintained schools, the current years budget amounts to £299k, which is amount per pupil of £16.43. The overall level of funding has reduced since the start of the fall in pupil numbers and schools converting to academies. These duties continue into 2022-23. These functions are part of the strategic review of all central Local Authority expenditure.