

Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	David Baxter
Report:	Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) Allocations 2025/2026
Date:	10 th January 2025
Purpose Of Report:	To review proposed 2025/2026 Central Schools and Services Block, CSSB allocations.
Is a Decision Required?	Yes
Decision context	Section 8 of the Schools Forum good practice guide: Agreeing other centrally retained budgets, including for local authority statutory responsibilities Statutory Instrument: The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012

Kirklees Schools Forum (Public)

10 January 2025

Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) Allocations 2025/2026

1. Background information

1.1 The Central Schools and Service Block (CSSB) of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) continues to provide funding for local authorities to carry out central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies, comprising 2 distinct elements:

- ongoing responsibilities
- historic commitments

2. Central Schools and Services Block (CSSB) 2025/2026 Block Allocation

2.1 The CSSB allocations for the 2025/2026 (published 18th December 2024) compared to the 2024/2025 allocations are shown in the table below:

Kirklees Council CSSB Block Allocation				
Components	Revised 2024/2025	Final Allocation 2025/2026	Year on Year Change	Comments
CSSB Unit of Funding	£38.60	£43.38*	£4.78	<i>*Calculated to 13 decimal places</i>
Number of Pupils	62,863.5	62,439	-424.5	
Historic Commitments	£170,000	£136,000	-£34,000	A further bid for 2025/2026 has been submitted as the assumed 20% year on year reduction is excessive.
Additional Copyright allocation.	£29,545	-	-£29,545	
Total CSSB	£2,626,077	£2,844,604	£218,527	

2.2 The ESFA has protected any local authority from having a reduction that takes their total historic commitments funding below the total value of their ongoing prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs, in recognition of the time required for such costs to unwind. Kirklees Council has already submitted evidence and demonstrated the ongoing costs to support a bid to be funded to at least the 2024/2025 funding amount of £170k.

2.3 It is proposed that the allocations in the table below are increased by 4%, reflecting both the impact of the agreed Local Authority pay award (implemented from 1st April 2024) and the overall reduction in pupil numbers which is key driver in the ESFA funding mechanism.

2.4 The proposed CSSB Allocations for 2025/2026 are compared against the agreed allocations for 2024/2025 shown below:

Budget Heading	Revised Allocation 2024/2025 £	Proposed Allocation 2025/2026 £	Notes
Servicing of Schools Forum	34,200	35,568	
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)	45,000	46,800	
Pupil Admissions Service	416,600	433,264	EY & HN blocks contribute
School Organisation & Planning	144,800	150,592	
Finance Support Costs	12,700	13,208	EY & HN blocks contribute
Payroll Support Costs	15,400	16,016	EY & HN blocks contribute
Personnel Costs	8,800	9,152	EY & HN blocks contribute
School Reorganisation Support	322,700	335,608	
Historic DSG pension commitments	170,000	136,000	Application to ESFA to protect to (at least) £170,000.
Former Teachers Pay & Pension Grant funding in respect of centrally employed teachers – <i>Specialist Provision Coordination</i>	20,200	21,008	HN block contributes
Former Teachers Pay & Pension Grant funding in respect of centrally employed teachers - <i>Looked after children</i>	6,200	6,448	
Former Teachers Pay & Pension Grant funding in respect of centrally employed teachers – <i>Portex ICAN EYSEN</i>	13,700	14,248	HN block contributes
National Copyright Licence charge	448,741	480,602	2025/2026 predicting 7.1% increase by the ESFA. This is set nationally and is mandatory.
Per pupil allocation to the Council in respect of statutory and regulatory duties for all children in Kirklees	967,036	1,146,090	In effect, this becomes the balancing figure from of the Central Schools and Services Block
TOTAL	£2,626,077	£2,844,604	

2.5 The national copyright licence charge will be further revised once the rates are agreed centrally (currently information produced by the ESFA identifies a 7.1% increase) with the balance of remaining resources reflected within the 'statutory and regulatory duties for all children in Kirklees'.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Schools forum representatives are requested to approve the proposed allocations of the Central Schools and Services Block, CSSB, for the 2025/2026 financial year.

David Baxter
Schools Finance Manager
9 January 2025