



**Subject Heading:**

**Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)  
2025-26**

**Report Author:**

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Finance Officer**

**Eligibility to vote:**

**All school and academy members**

### SUMMARY

This report summarises the locally projected DSG Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) funding for financial year 2025-26 and seeks approval for the retention of funding to maintain central statutory services.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum:

- (i) notes the projected allocation of CSSB for 2025-26
- (ii) considers the request to retain funding for central statutory services

### REPORT DETAIL

#### 1. Background

As part of the introduction of a Schools and High Needs National Funding Formula in 2018-19 the DfE also introduced a fourth funding block, the CSSB, which

brought together funding for services previously funded through the Schools Block and through an Education Services Grant. The projected allocation for 2025-26 is shown below.

The ESFA Operational Guidance requires Schools Forum approval for the central retention of this funding, as shown at section 3 below.

## 2. CSSB allocation 2025-26

Indicative funding for 2025-26 through the DSG Central Service Block has been delayed, and is due to be announced by the DfE after the Autumn Budget statement in late October.

In advance of the announcement, below is the projected allocation with an uplift of 2.0% to the per pupil rate for the CSSB. The table below has comparable data from 2024-25.

	Ongoing responsibilities			Historical commitments	Total CSSB
	Pupil nos.	Per pupil £	£	£	£
2025-26 projected	39,645.0	42.50	1,684,912	75,365	1,760,277
2024-25 final	39,645.0	41.67	1,652,383	94,206	1,746,589
Difference	0	0.83	32,529	-18,841	13,688

## 3. Services to be funded

The services that LAs can fund from the CSSB are set out in the extract from the Operational Guidance, which we have used the 2024-25 version as the basis for the 2025-26, due to the delay of the release for 2025-26 allocations and guidance. For Havering, these services are as follows:

Ongoing responsibilities	Final 2024-25 £	Projected 2025-26*	Projected change £	Proposed change %
Copyright licences	230,000	234,082	4,082	1.8
Admissions	555,738	566,853	11,115	2.0
Schools Forum	45,662	46,575	913	2.0
LA responsibilities to all schools	761,019	776,239	15,220	2.0
Pension funding	59,964	61,163	1,199	2.0
Unallocated	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,652,383</b>	<b>1,684,912</b>	<b>32,529</b>	<b>2.0</b>

Historical commitments	Proposed 2024-25 £	Projected 2025-26	Proposed change £	Proposed change %
Schools Partnerships/Schools Causing Concern	94,206	75,365	-18,841	-20.0

<b>Total</b>	<b>1,746,589</b>	<b>1,760,277</b>	<b>13,688</b>	<b>0.8</b>
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### **Ongoing responsibility element**

The copyright licence costs tend to increase each year but LAs are not notified of the increase until later in the year. An estimated sum of £234,082 has been included. Areas relating to salary costs have been increased by 2.0%. The actual increase in cost is likely to be in excess of 5.0%.

### **Historic Commitments element**

Continuing the financial year arrangements for this element of the grant, the LA is proposing that for 2025-26 that this continues to be used for items that are accessible to a large number of schools. This includes the coaching bursary, Havering Academy of Leadership and support commissioned on behalf of all schools.

Schools Funding Forum approval is requested for this use of the CSSB.