



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Schools Funding Forum 23rd October 2025

ITEM 7

Subject Heading:

**Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)
2026-27**

Report Author:

**Hany Moussa – Principal Education
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 2026-27 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 2026-27
- (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 2026-27 is shown below.

The DfE 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 2026-27 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 November.

In advance of the announcement, below is the projected allocation with an uplift of 3.0% to the per pupil rate for the CSSB. The table below has comparable data from 2025-26.

	Ongoing responsibilities			Historical commitments	Total CSSB
	Pupil nos.	Per pupil £	£	£	£
2026-27 projected	39,883.0	47.43	1,891,651	60,292	1,951,943
2025-26 final	39,883.0	46.05	1,836,613	75,365	1,911,978
Difference	0	1.38	55,038	-15,073	39,965

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 2025-26 version as the basis for the 2026-27, due to the delay of the release for 2026-27 allocations and guidance. For Havering, these services are as follows:

Ongoing responsibilities	Final 2025-26 £	Projected 2026-27* £	Projected change £	Projected change %
Copyright licences	280,000	288,400	8,400	3.0
Admissions	597,932	615,870	17,938	3.0
Schools Forum	49,087	50,560	1,473	3.0
LA responsibilities to all schools	909,594	936,821	27,227	3.0
Total	1,836,613	1,891,651	55,038	3.0

Historical commitments	Final 2025-26 £	Projected 2026-27* £	Projected change £	Projected change %
Schools Partnerships/Schools Causing Concern	75,365	60,292	-15,073	-20.0
Total	1,911,978	1,951,943	39,965	2.1

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 £288,400 has been included. Areas relating to salary costs have been increased by 3.0%. The actual increase in cost is likely to be aligned or more than what has been projected.

Historic Commitments element

Continuing the financial year arrangements for this element of the grant, the LA is proposing that for 2026-27 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.