



North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14th December 2023

Agenda Item 9

National Funding Formula Central School Services Block 2024-25

Consultation Update

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report aims to provide Schools Forum with an update on the consultation responses regarding the Local Authority's proposals for central expenditure on education functions for the fiscal year 2024-25.
- 1.2 There is an overall estimated reduction of £221K in the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB). This is due to the 20% reduction in the historical element of the CSSB.

2. Central School Services Block (CSSB)

- 2.1 CSSB covers funding allocated to LAs to carry out central education functions on behalf of pupils in maintained schools and academies in England.
- 2.2 The CSSB is split into two elements:
 - a) funding for ongoing responsibilities is a formula based calculation (nationally distributed via a per pupil rate currently multiplied by October 2022 pupil census data but will be revised to October 2023 numbers in the December 2023 announcement).
 - b) funding for historic commitments allocated at levels carried forward from previous years. The DfE have been reducing the historic commitments funding since 2020-21 by 20% per annum. This reduction has been applied to the provisional 2024-25 CSSB funding.
- 2.3 NNC have received a provisional allocation of £3,066,026 in 2024-25 compared to £3,286,931 in 2023-24 which is a reduction of £221k. The following Table is an extract from the National Funding Formula (NFF) which summarises the CSSB provisional calculation for 2024-25.

Central school services block: local authority (LA) summary

On this page you can see the estimated impact on an LA's funding. To view an LA's data, please select the relevant LA from the blue box in row 10.

- Below, you will see the LA's 2023-24 CSSB funding baseline and the change in funding under the NFF.

- At the top of the page are the baseline and 2024-25 allocation for historic commitments.

- LA's historic commitments funding will be reduced by 20%.

- At the bottom of the page, you will see the provisional change to the LA's funding for ongoing responsibilities in 2024-25 as a result of the national funding formula.

- Funding for ongoing responsibilities will be allocated on a per-pupil basis. No LA's per-pupil funding for 2024-25 will fall more than 2.5% compared to its 2023-24 per-pupil funding.

Cell colour guide	Calculation	Explanation
Please select your local authority from the drop down menu:	North Northamptonshire	

Table 1: 2024-25 funding for historic commitments

2023-24 baseline for historic commitments	£1,439,677	This shows the 2023-24 LA allocation for historic commitments.
NFF funding for historic commitments	£1,151,742	This shows what the LA will receive for historic commitments in 2024-25 (prior to any protection applied in the DSG).

Table 2: Provisional 2023-24 funding for ongoing responsibilities, under the NFF

2023-24 baseline for ongoing responsibilities	£1,847,253	This shows the LA's allocation for ongoing responsibilities in the 2023-24 DSG allocations.
2024-25 total funding for ongoing responsibilities	£1,914,284	This shows what the LA will provisionally receive for ongoing responsibilities in 2024-25.
Percentage change in per pupil funding in 2024-25	3.63%	This shows the percentage change the LA will receive per pupil in 2024-25 compared with the 2023-24 baseline for ongoing responsibilities.

2.4 Table 1 shows the change in CSSB funding between 2024-25 and 2023-24

Table 1 – CSSB Funding

Central School Services Block Funding	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Final CSSB unit of funding	£36.91	£38.25	£1.34
2021 to 2022 CSSB pupil count	50,047.50	50,047.50	0.00
Funding for On-going Duties	£1,847,254.00	£1,914,284.00	£67,030.00
Funding for Historic Commitments	£1,439,677.00	£1,151,742.00	£(287,935)
Total Central School Services Block Funding	£3,286,931.00	£3,066,026.00	£(220,905)

Note: +ve increase in income -ve reduction in income

2.5 The change between unprotected NFF per-pupil funding and per-pupil baseline for ongoing responsibilities for North Northamptonshire Council is 3.63%. As a result, North Northamptonshire received a 3.63% increase for ongoing responsibilities – which amounts to £67k.

2.6 The CSSB NFF allocates funding to LAs for ongoing responsibilities using a pupil-led formula. The formula uses three factors:

- a basic per-pupil factor, through which LAs receive most of the funding.
- a deprivation per-pupil factor; and
- for the 2024-25 CSSB NFF, a copyright licences per pupil factor to fund the additional costs of copyright licences that LAs faced in 2023-24.

- 2.7 The increase of 3.63% in total ongoing responsibilities funding that each LA attracts includes the total additional cost for their copyright licences from 2023-24. The DFE made an adjustment to Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) costs that were charged for the 2022-23 financial year due to an administrative error that meant LAs were charged incorrectly for this licence.
- 2.8 Table 2 summarised NNC's current use of the CSSB funding in 2023-24, together with proposals for its use in 2024-25 and show the changes between 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Table 2 – NNC Proposed CSSB Expenditure for 2024-25

Central School Services Block	2023-24	2024-25	Change
Historical Commitments	£	£	£
Contribution to Combined Services (see Table 3)	639,677	244,742	(394,935)
Contribution to DSG High Needs Deficit	0	0	0
Pre-2013 Premature Retirement / Redundancy Costs	800,000	907,000	107,000
Total Historical Commitments	1,439,677	1,151,742	(287,935)
Ongoing Responsibilities	£	£	£
Admissions	499,208	507,517	8,309
Schools Forum	11,300	11,300	0
National Copyright Licences	321,279	380,000	58,721
Statutory and Regulatory Duties	1,010,000	1,010,000	0
Teacher's Pay and Pension Grant	5,467	5,467	0
Total Ongoing Responsibilities	1,847,254	1,914,284	67,030
Total CSSB	3,286,931	3,066,026	(220,905)

Note: +ve increase in expenditure -ve reduction in expenditure

- 2.9 Table 3 provides a breakdown of NNC's proposals for the use of the CSSB on Combined Services in 2024-25 and changes from 2023-24.

Table 3 - NNC Proposed Combined Services Expenditure Budget

CSSB DSG Contribution to Combined Service	2023-24	2024-25	Change
	£	£	£
School Standards & Effectiveness	466,150	71,215	(394,935)
Moderation	15,000	15,000	0
Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board	33,247	33,247	0
Educational Entitlement	125,280	125,280	0
Total	639,677	244,742	(394,935)

Note: +ve increase in expenditure -ve reduction in expenditure

3. Consultation Update

3.1 Following the School Forum meeting in October 2023, a consultation was initiated to gather feedback from schools regarding the proposed central expenditure on education functions for the fiscal year 2024-25.

3.2 Consultation Outcomes:

The table provided below displays the responses gathered during the consultation.

	Consultation Question	Yes	No	N/A
1	Do you agree to further de-delegation for Education Functions from maintained Primary, Secondary and Special School Budgets to meet this shortfall in CSSB funding? (Maintained Schools only)	2	2	14
2	Do you agree the use of Historical Commitment budget as set out in Table 2 above?	17	1	-
3	Do you agree the use of the available Ongoing Responsibilities budgets as set out in Table 2 above?	18	0	-
4	Do you agree the Use of Contribution to Combined Services Budget (as per Table 3 above)	17	1	-

3.3 Following the consultation responses to the question whether there should be a further de-delegation for Education Functions from maintained Primary, Secondary, and Special School Budgets to address the shortfall in CSSB funding resulting in a tie, Schools Forum maintained schools members will need to decide and vote to determine whether this proposal will be accepted or not.

3.4 The majority of participants of the Schools Consultation agreed to Questions 2, 3 & 4 in their responses submitted.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The figures in this report are estimated and will change following the release of the 2024-25 Authority Proforma Tool with the October 2023 census and the 2024-25 Funding Settlement by the DFE.

5. Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

6. Risks

6.1 The main risks arising should Schools Forum not agree with the recommendations are to find alternative sources of funding to support the existing commitments. Should this not be possible DSG CSSB Contribution to Combined Functions may have to cease. The criteria of what DSG CSSB can be spent on is set out in [The School and Early Years Finance \(England\) Regulations 2023](#)

7. Recommendations for Schools Forum

7.1 School Forum are to note the outcomes of the consultation.

- 7.2 Maintained school forum members will need to vote on the option for further de-delegation for Education Functions from maintained Primary, Secondary, and Special School Budgets to address the shortfall in CSSB funding.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 The outcome of the consultation will guide the determination of the final Central Schools Budget for the 2024-25, following the Department for Education's Finance Settlement in January 2024, announced in December 2023.

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