

Appendix 6 - DSG Central Schools Services Block Allocations 2025/26

1. This appendix provides further details of the central schools services block.
2. The table below summarised the allocation for Cheshire East and shows the change from 2024/25.
3. The DfE have continued their approach of reducing the historic commitments element by 20% year on year. On-going responsibilities are based on pupil numbers and include increases for pay and pensions for centrally employed teachers (received as grant in 2024/25), increased costs of copyright licences and further cost increases from 2025/26.

Change to CSSB	2024/25 November 2024	2025/26 December 2024	%
Historic Commitments	£481,363	£385,091	-20.0%
On-going Responsibilities	£1,956,267	£2,163,536	+10.6%
Total	£2,437,630	£2,548,627	4.6%

4. The figures are broken down into the proposed allocations set out below:

Service	Historic Commitments 2025/26 £'000	On-going Responsibilities 2025/26 £'000	Approval Required
Central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State		364	For Schools Forum awareness only
Admissions Service		390	Schools forum approval given
Servicing of Schools Forum		21	Schools forum approval given
Contribution to responsibilities that local		1,182	Former ESG element. Schools forum approval given.

Service	Historic Commitments 2025/26 £'000	On-going Responsibilities 2025/26 £'000	Approval Required
authorities hold for all schools. Eg Finance, Audit, Statutory Heads of Service posts etc			
Contribution to combined budgets for ICT systems and analysis – eg data capture and analysis software and analysis time.	186		Schools forum approval given.
Prudential borrowing costs	295		Schools forum approval given
Increase in on-going responsibilities because of pupil numbers		207	
20% reduction applied to historic commitments	-96		
Total 2025/26	385	2,164	2,549
Total 2024/25	481	1,957	2,438
Net Change	-96	207	111