

	Agreed 2122	Agreed 2223	Agreed 2324	Agreed 2425	Agreed 2526	Proposed 2627*	Legislative Requirement	Specific comments on individual services where applicable	General comments on the consequences for the funding and delivery of each of the services provided if the request was not approved and any other comments
<b>Statutory and Regulatory</b>									
Director of Children Services & strategic planning for education service	£126,999	£126,999	£126,999	£126,999	£126,999	£166,076	Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Sch 2, 15a)	Proportion of Director of Children's Services and Director of Education & Skills costs. These posts support the strategic delivery of the education service and are crucial to the ongoing improvement and progress of the service, and our ability to provide our statutory duties	All of the services for which funding is requested are statutory services. This means that they cannot be traded as the LA would have to provide them to all schools whether or not the school agreed to an SLA. If the Forum didn't agree any funding for a service, then the LA would still be obliged to provide it. In these circumstances, the LA would appeal to the Secretary of State for Education, in accordance with the Schools and Early Years finance regulations, to allow the minimum sum required to be retained.
Place planning	£100,695	£100,695	£100,695	£100,695	£100,695	£125,466	Planning for the education service as a whole (Sch 2, 15b)	The Education Act 1996 Section 14 and Section 29 requires the Council to fulfil its statutory duty to secure sufficient primary and secondary schools paying particular regards to the need to secure special Educational Needs places. The team is responsible for ensuring sufficient mainstream and special school places are available at the right time and in the right place to ensure safeguarding – making sure every child has a local school place. The team submits an Annual School Capacity return (SCAP) which involves forecasting and publishing requirements for additional places to the DfE to meet basic need. Partnership working with school staff, governing bodies and parents is crucial to securing diversity of provision and increasing opportunities for parental choice. The team also assess the net capacity of all maintained mainstream schools and keeps updated records. Acting in accordance with the relevant legislations (Education and Inspections Act 2006) the team ensures council fulfils its responsibility to make prescribed changes as per School Organisation 'Prescribed Alterations' to Maintained Schools (England) Regulations 2013 - changing age range, adding or removing SEN provision, changes to admission numbers and/or criteria, changes to school status etc..	
Finance & accounting	£44,183	£44,183	£44,183	£44,183	£44,183	£57,777	Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Sch 2, 15c); formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Sch 2, 15d); Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Sch 2, 22)	This covers the local authority's requirements to prepare revenue budgets, information on income and expenditure relating to education and incorporate this into the LA's annual statement of accounts, external audit of grant claims and returns relating to Education. This work is mainly carried out in the Business, Education & Care finance team. This team supports the whole range of Education Finance activity, including a) ensuring compliance with the financial and regulatory requirements on DSG; b) DSG financial modelling, formula development, implementing funding reforms, determining and issuing school budgets, etc c) day to day monitoring of all Education activity (including the Capital programme) however funded, preparation of budgets/ financial planning, final accounts etc., grant claims.	
Internal Audit .	£9,248	£9,248	£9,248	£9,248	£9,248	£12,093	Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Sch 2, 15e)	Relates to internal audit's role in auditing the elements of the Authority's services and accounts that apply to all schools including academies	
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£5,231	Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs) (Sch 2, 17)	Hosting, attendance and actions arising from T&Ws SACRE.	
Providing information to or at the request of the SOS	£10,789	£10,789	£10,789	£10,789	£10,789	£14,108	Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Sch 2, 21); Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Sch 2, 19)	Included in corporate finance responsibilities above.	
Total	£295,913	£295,913	£295,913	£295,913	£295,913	£380,751			
Attendance Support (Education welfare)	£121,245	£121,245	£121,245	£121,245	£121,245	£234,229	Functions in relation to school attendance (Schedule 2, paragraph 16); responsibilities regarding restrictions on the employment of children (Schedule 2, paragraph 18); functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Schedule 2, paragraph 20)	In line with DfE statutory guidance 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' – August 2024 AST must deliver four core functions. <b>Communication and Advice</b> – this is delivered by a virtual termly Attendance Briefing, virtual half termly Attendance Surgeries and regular articles in the Education <b>Targeted Support Meetings</b> – These are delivered to all schools by the two Attendance Advisors in AST who were appointed in preparation of this function from September 2023. <b>Multi-Disciplinary Support for Families</b> – This is delivered by AST officers signposting and advising schools and monitoring of schools Early Help Model. <b>Legal Intervention</b> – This is delivered by PNS and accepting referrals from schools and undertaking all investigations. In casework, under section 444 of the Education Act 1996 the AST conduct all investigations for non school attendance offences in accordance with the Police & Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984. AST officers liaise with school staff to prepare questions and parents are interviewed 'under caution,' which determines whether a case will meet the evidential test and proceed to Magistrates Court. Five AST officers have delegated authority to appear in the Magistrates Court as prosecutors and present all cases under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. AST also prepare all cases and summonses that are prosecuted under the 'Single Justice Procedures SJP' legal process. Cases under SJP are for example, when a PN is unpaid.  In August 2024 the National Framework for Penalty Notices was published by the DfE which allows for a fair and consistent approach to the issuing of Penalty Notices relating to school unauthorised absence. Following consultation, the duty to issue all school relayed PNs was delegated to the Attendance Support Team (AST). PNs are an alternative process to section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The AST also issue all PNs to parents when a pupil is seen in a public place during an exclusion from school.  AST offer an extensive programme of training to prepare and support staff to undertake the additional responsibility of managing school attendance. The AST offer advice and guidance to schools on the use of registration absence codes in line with The School Attendance (Pupil Registration)(England) Regulations 2024  AST also manage all school Attendance Orders in line with the Education Act 1996 where it is identified that a child is not receiving a suitable education.  AST also have a statutory duty to comply with two DfE data collection returns 'EHE and CME data' - on a termly basis and Parental Responsibility Measures - annually.  Other AST duties include: managing numerous FOI requests, the majority of which are queries about Penalty Notices and legal interventions; producing all policies for the LA relating to school attendance, leave in term time, Children Missing Education and the Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices; representing the LA on the West Midlands regional term times and holiday forum; Children Missing Education: The CME Officer is based in AST and has the statutory responsibility for tracking and monitoring children missing from education.  <b>Child Employment</b> - The Child Employment officer is based within the AST and manages all applications from employers of school age children for work permits, performance and modelling licences for both Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Council. In addition, the CE officer trains chaperone applicants who support school age children and issues the licence to successful candidates. The CE officer responsibilities are also statutory.	<b>Equalities Impact Assessment</b> The services identified are provided to schools as a whole rather than to individual pupils. We have therefore not been able to identify any differential impact upon groups of children and young people which would arise from the provision of these services.
General Landlord duty for all buildings let to academies and for all community school buildings & overall responsibility for capital strategy	£68,791	£68,791	£68,791	£68,791	£68,791	£89,958	Management of the local authority's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Schedule 2, paragraph 14a); landlord responsibilities, including those in relation to land leased to academies for schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 14b)	School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 22 requires the Council to fulfil its landlord responsibility for the education portfolio, regulate any third party arrangements on education sites and provide guidance and support to schools on statutory compliance. The LA is also expected to maintain local authority managed school estate so that the health and safety of children is not put at risk and provide effective maintenance of school buildings to prevent school closure. Under the Academies Act 2010 Where an Academy order under section 4(4)(3) or (1)(b) has effect in respect of a school, the governing body of the school and the local authority must take all reasonable steps to facilitate the conversion of the school into an Academy. Where the Secretary of State notifies the governing body or local authority that the Secretary of State is minded to enter into Academy arrangements with a specified person, their duty under subsection (1) includes a duty to take all reasonable steps to facilitate the making of Academy arrangements with that person.	
Management of PFI Contracts	£10,583	£10,583	£10,583	£10,583	£10,583	£13,840		In relation to the Pupil Place Planning work, as well forecasting and publishing requirements to meet Basic Need, LA must fulfil its statutory duty for sufficient school places through the delivery of T&W's basic need programme. The annual school place planning cycle which includes procuring and delivering schools' capital programme within the available Basic Need grant funding. This includes carrying out statutory school organisation to change age range and admission number/arrangements as well as the delivery of the schools capital programme through temporary, permanent expansions of existing schools and new build projects. The cost takes into account capitalisation of eligible staff costs to relevant schemes which is why it is lower than would otherwise be the case.  T&W has a PFI contract with Interserve relating to HLC, which incorporates three schools and other facilities. The annual revenue cost of the contract is circa £10m. The central aims of the contract management are to ensure Services are delivered in accordance with the contract and that the local authority's agreed contractual position is protected whilst maintaining the agreed allocation of risk and achieving Best Value for money. Monitoring of the service provider's performance against the output specification to ensure that the financial implication of any estate related failure to perform is been taken into consideration Payment for the service to the providers is conditional upon the quality of performance of the service provider and/or the availability of the building. Continuous improvement in the contract performance and service delivery also needs to be maintained.	
Admissions									
Running local central admissions system, handling appeals etc	£339,075	£339,075	£339,075	£339,075	£339,075	£379,837	Operation of the system of admissions and appeals (Schedule 2, paragraph 9)	Consultation on admission arrangements, running the central admissions system in T&W, including advice and guidance to parents and carers about he availability of school places and all other admission and appeal related enquiries, organising the admission appeals system.	
Safeguarding training	£28,256	£28,256	£28,256	£28,256	£28,256	£36,950		Some safeguarding support is traded but the core offer includes education' triage' desk, taking concerns raised by schools around safeguarding/neglect, and liaising with appropriate teams, providing core information and advice.	
Support for Schools Forum	£20,550	£20,550	£20,550	£20,550	£20,550	£26,873		Providing papers, minutes, attendance at meetings, arranging for membership to be maintained, arranging venues, etc.	
Teachers pension employer contributions, funding for centrally employed teachers	£81,747	£81,747	£81,747	£81,747	£81,747	£106,900		This was an additional allocation some years ago to the CSSB to provide equivalent funding to that provided to schools for an increase in teachers pension contributions. There are approximately 17.5FTE teachers employed by T&W (e.g. in the Sensory Inclusion Service, LSATS, etc).	
Total	£966,160	£966,160	£966,160	£966,160	£966,160	£1,289,338			
* Default is applying inflation indices using December 2020, inflation index 109.2, October 2025, 139.8, assume further 3% for 2026/27 costs taking index to 142.8. However, where there are actual costs for a specific service (i.e. the entire service is applicable to CSSB, taken 26/26 costs uplifted by 3%)									
CPI INDEX 00: ALL ITEMS 2015=100 - Office for National Statistics									
Draft Central School Services Block 2026/27 allocations (to be updated for October 2025 pupil numbers)	£1,123,542	£1,092,653	£1,102,284	£1,158,753	£1,184,741	£1,585,769			
Difference	£157,382	£126,493	£136,124	£192,593	£218,581	£316,431			
Central government purchase of licences for schools (statutory payment to DfE)	£140,728	£145,881	£166,009	£196,656	£202,099	£212,099			
Difference	£16,654	-£19,388	-£29,885	-£4,063	£16,482	£104,332			

Categories / Description - as set out in DfE Guidance	Agreed 2122	Agreed 2223	Agreed 2324	Agreed 2425	Agreed 2526	Proposed 2627
Statutory and Regulatory						
Human Resources	£67,673	£66,296	£65,806	£65,966	£63,190	£56,263
Finance & Procurement	£43,266	£42,386	£42,073	£42,175	£40,400	£35,972
Internal Audit	£56,579	£55,428	£55,018	£55,152	£52,831	£47,040
Health & Safety	£17,750	£17,389	£17,261	£17,303	£16,574	£14,758
Asset Management	£184,160	£180,412	£179,079	£179,515	£171,959	£153,110
Monitoring national curriculum assessments	£20,224	£19,813	£19,666	£19,714	£18,884	£16,814
Legal services	£8,898	£8,717	£8,653	£8,674	£8,309	£7,398
Total	£398,552	£390,440	£387,557	£388,500	£372,148	£331,356
Central Support services - music & outdoor education	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Premature retirement costs	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Total	£398,552	£390,440	£387,557	£388,500	£372,148	£331,356
Rate per pupil 2021/22 to 2025/26 and proposed for 2026/27	£26.95	£26.95	£26.95	£26.95	£30.99	£31.92
Number of pupils	14,801	14,488	14,381	14,416	12,009	10,483

The situation described above for services from the central school services block is the same for these services for maintained schools only, in that they are statutory services that the LA is legally obliged to provide.

HR duties, including advice to schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition or organisation of staff; Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body; functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers' pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body; determination of conditions of service for non-teaching staff; appointment or dismissal of employee functions; consultation costs relating to staffing

Proportion of the costs of the Finance Manager for Business, Education & Care Finance, the Senior Accountant in the Schools Finance Team to monitor & advise on schools budget management, including action taken to protect the LAs financial position and any other appropriate sections of the Scheme for financing schools.

The local authority's procurement team provides policy and strategy updates to schools SBMs, provides advice and guidance or leads procurement on behalf of specific schools, enables access to public sector procurement frameworks and corporate contracts, supports compliant contracting and support and advice on contract management, supports procurement cards, manages the Agresso punch out enabling direct purchase from West Midlands supplies, liaises between West Mercia Energy and schools for accounts set up and cost code queries, supplier set-up on Agresso.

Compiling CFR returns for DfE on behalf of schools; Incorporating schools balances to LA financial accounts; Maintaining local scheme for financing schools and ensuring schools compliance with contents (e.g. the annual balance control survey).

A proportionate charge of the total audit recharge to the Finance & HR area plus part of finance costs relating to LA monitoring and role in providing information to national government. Carry out internal audit programme for schools on cyclical risk based approach, including on site work, production of reports, agreement and monitoring of recommendations.

This duty is generally delegated to school governing bodies with schools able to purchase advice from the LAs H&S team as a bought in service. The LA retains a monitoring function for schools H&S as a core duty and a small residual budget for this.

This funds Asset Management functions around the schools built estate, underpinned by a complete Borough wide data base covering all educational properties. Activities undertaken include:

- Project management around maintenance, extensions and new builds to ensure satisfactory delivery to time and budget,
- Asbestos management. Surveys, ongoing surveys and management controls. Programmes for removal/containment etc. funded corporately,
- Estate management issues including boundary disputes, rights of ways, covenants, registration of title etc.,
- Energy management advice, educational programmes for pupils/staff on energy usage. Covers electric/gas/water,
- Vetting of contractors, CRB checks, CHAS compliance etc.,
- Suitability surveys, to assess schools/classrooms against current Educational building bulletin guidelines.
- Condition Surveys, maintenance of back log register, ongoing updates, prioritisation of work programmes;
- Contractors pre qualification assessment / appraisal;
- Safe working documentation for construction work on education sites;
- Attending governors meetings to advise on property / building matters as requested;
- General property advice and site visits as required;
- Campus management support for shared sites e.g. Abraham Darby;
- Disability access assessments.
- Management of disability panel. Allocation of funding;
- Capital budget monitoring, maintenance of P2 property data base including budget controls, allocation of funding etc.

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to monitor the administration of KS2 national curriculum tests for 10% of their schools. The legal basis for this activity is set out in The Education (National Curriculum) (Key Stage 2 Assessment Arrangements) (England) Order 2003 (as amended).

Legal services that are provided directly to individual schools are charged via SLA/hourly rates to schools, so no legitimate charge to ESG. Legal advice with regard to admissions appeals etc is included in the existing Admissions top-slice and so is also not charged. The small residual sum remaining relates to legal advice concerning school matters that is provided to internal LA officers and so is not charged to schools.

These services are non statutory. Additional financial support to assist deprived pupils to access Arthog is provided by T&W.

These services are non statutory. Unlike other local authorities, T&W has never top-sliced DSG to pay for school staff premature retirement costs. The annual cost of this to the authority is £1.3m per annum.