

Schools Forum – 4th October 2016

De-delegation vote for 2017-18

Recommendation

1. That the Schools Forum considers the issues in this report and maintained schools members vote on each heading on behalf of the schools they represent.

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities:

PART A

Why is it coming here – what decision is required?

2. Under the government's current funding rules there is an assumption of delegation for a number of budget areas which are currently held centrally for maintained schools and are delegated for academies. Maintained schools' representatives on the Schools Forum can vote, by phase and on behalf of the schools they represent, to de-delegate these areas where it is proposed by the local authority. The outcome of the vote is binding for all maintained schools of that phase.

Reasons for recommendation:

3. The authority is proposing the option of de-delegation for all of these areas for 2017-18 to enable the Schools Forum to vote on each on behalf of schools. The vote is being carried out at this time to enable schools and services time to plan for their budgets and responsibilities for 2017-18.

PART B

Background:

4. Under the national funding arrangements the government wants schools to have the opportunity to have as much funding and responsibility delegated to them as possible. Each year the Schools Forum representatives for maintained primary and secondary schools are required to vote on behalf of the schools they represent to determine whether or not a range of costs currently met centrally will transfer to maintained schools for them to manage themselves. The budget for these costs would also transfer to schools on a formula basis.
5. The maintained schools' members vote by phase on any areas proposed for de-delegation by the local authority and the outcome of that vote is binding for all maintained schools within the phase.
6. Academies are not part of these arrangements since these responsibilities and the funding for them are automatically delegated to academies through the EFA use of the local funding formula.

7. The budgets de-delegated last year following the equivalent vote are set out in the table below. The values are 2016-17 budget levels for all primary and secondary schools (i.e. including academies) to provide the context of values involved. Actual figures for 2017-18 are not yet known and will be finalised over the next few months as the settlement and school census become available. Supplementary information on the impact of delegation of each area is included in **Appendix 1**. The authority proposes that these areas are subject to the de-delegated vote for 2017-18.

Areas proposed for de-delegation for 2017-18

Budget Area	Primary £m	Secondary (including middle) £m
Insurances (mainly premises related)	1.834	2.479
Staff costs (Maternity Pay)	1.189	1.010
Staff costs (Union Duties)	0.142	0.060
School Specific Contingency	0.390	0.185
Support for ethnic minority pupils or under-achieving groups	0.877	0.319
Licences and Subscriptions	0.505	0.205
Behaviour Support Services	0.507	Delegated
FSM eligibility	0.028	0.016

8. If the Facilities Time Funding report is approved, this will increase the budget for Union Duties and reduce the School Specific Contingency by the amount requested. This will be split proportionately between the Primary and Secondary sector.

Report author:

Author's Name: Joanne Galt
 Ext. No.: 01785 854812
 Room No.: Floor 2, Staffordshire Place 2