



Northumberland County Council

Wellbeing and Community Health

Agenda Item 7

SCHOOLS FORUM

19 January 2022

Maintained Schools 2022/23 De-Delegation

1. Purpose of the Report

To evaluate the financial implications and impact of the phased withdrawal of School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant (SIMBG) from 2022/23, and the potential impact on de-delegation and SLA Charges for School Improvement.

2. Recommendations

Schools Members of the Schools Forum representing maintained mainstream schools agree on a phase by phase basis to the de-delegation in respect of the services listed above for 2022/23 using the per unit values, and estimated overall values as set out below.

3. Background

The School and Early Years Finance Regulations permit the central retention of funding for certain specified services by the de-delegation of funding from maintained schools (but not from academies) with the specific approval of the relevant members of the Schools Forum. As part of the setting of the Schools Block Dedicated Schools Block, a decision is taken by Schools Forum every January in relation to the de-delegation of funds for certain prescribed purposes. Maintained schools vote on a proposal to allow the deduction from their DSG at source for certain services.

Academies are free to purchase these services, either through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) or on a Pay As You Go basis. Special Schools and the PRU are not affected by de-delegation but can also participate through the SLA or on a Pay As You Go basis.

In 2021/22 four services have received a contribution via de-delegation, as shown in the table below, and no change is anticipated in relation to these.

	2021/22 Estimate (£)
Contingency Fund for School Restructure and Re-organisation costs	345,088
Determination of FSM Eligibility	20,767
Trades Union Facility Time	56,077
English as an Additional Language (EAL) services	34,597
TOTAL:	456,529

However, with the late announcement this week in relation to the 50% reduction in the SIMBG, and the associated extension of de-delegation powers to fund School Improvement by maintained schools, it is necessary to consider how this is addressed.

4. Current Position

At Schools Forum on 17 November 2021, Agenda Item 10 “National Funding Formula & Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) & Consultation on 2022/23 Funding Values informed Forum of a current consultation as to how School Improvement functions will be funded in the future.

Though the consultation itself did not close until 26 November 2021, on 11 January 2022 the ESFA published the Government’s response and stated its intention to:

“proceed with reducing the local authority school improvement monitoring and brokering grant by 50% for financial year 2022 to 2023, prior to full removal in financial year 2023 to 2024”

It went on to state:

“provision will be included in the School and Early Years Finance Regulations 2022 (England) to instead allow local authorities to deduct funding for local authorities’ core school improvement activities from maintained school budgets” (i.e. via de-delegation).

The full Government Response to the consultation is available [HERE](#) .

5. Financial Impact

Subject to confirmation, the estimated loss in SIMBG for 2022/23 is £194,451 based on 50% of 2021/22 funding which totalled £388,901. Any de-delegation request in relation to School Improvement would need to be covered on a direct “per pupil” basis; there are an estimated 16,196 applicable pupils in maintained schools. Full recovery of the £194,451 reduction would therefore cost £12 per pupil.

However, given the late notice of this change from the Government, and the potential impact upon schools, the intention is that the reduction in funding will be met from within the service for 2022/23. Further de-delegation sums may be requested in future years when the full impact of the removal of the grant from 2022/23/24 is assessed but no further de-delegation sums will be requested in respect of School Improvement for 2022/23.

The remaining de-delegation requests and estimated costs to maintained schools in 2022/23 are shown in the table below:

	2022/23 Estimate (£) #	Cost per eligible unit (£)
Contingency Fund for School Restructure and Re-organisation costs	339,420	20.00
Determination of FSM Eligibility	22,266	6.00
Trades Union Facility Time	55,156	3.25
English as an Additional Language (EAL) services	41,353	220.00
TOTAL:	458,195	-

Final figures subject to in year academy conversions

6. Summary and Conclusions

The agreement of mainstream maintained schools is requested to the de-delegation request for 2022/23, including the decision not to seek any further de-delegated sum for School Improvement for 2022/23.

B Parvin

Education and Skills Business Manager

14 January 2022