



Notes of the Maintained Schools Committee

Date: 19th November 2021

Present: Janice Freeman (Chair) - Kings Wood School, David Hood – Cressex School, Eileen Stewart – Stoke Mandeville Combined School, Kathryn Tamlyn – Cheddington Combined School, Julia Antrobus – Newtown School, Howard Beveridge – The Grange School, Julie Lawrence – Bedgrove Infants, Nicola Hulland – The Cottlesloe School, Liz Williams, Head of Finance – Children's Services.

Apologies: Paula Coppins – Manor Farm Infants

1. Contingency Fund

- 1.1. The committee reviewed the sums carried forward from 2020-21 and the budget available for the current year against levels of spend in previous years.
- 1.2. It was agreed that there should be no further de-delegation from schools for the contingency fund in 2022-23 as there is sufficient funding available to cover future bids against this fund.
- 1.3. It was agreed this should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that a level of funding is retained to support schools in deficit.

2. Contingency – deficits for closing schools

- 2.1. It was agreed that, based on the potential conversions in the next financial year, there should be no de-delegation of funds for deficits in closing schools in 2022-23. It was agreed that this should be reviewed on an annual basis based on risk.
- 2.2. The Committee noted the work by The Mandeville School in changing from a significant deficit to a surplus position.

3. Trade Union Facilities

- 3.1. Expenditure in 2021-22 was higher than in previous years and therefore funding rolled forward has now been spent.
- 3.2. It was agreed that a level of de-delegation will be required for 2022-23 and that this should be 70p per pupil.

4. Cover for small schools

- 4.1. Expenditure in previous years was reviewed and it was agreed to recommend to Schools Forum that no funding is de-delegated in 2022-23 as funding will be rolled forward from previous years. This is to be reviewed on an annual basis.

5. Finance Support for Schools in Financial Difficulties

- 5.1. It was agreed to recommend de-delegation at £2.75 per pupil in mainstream schools and £10 per place for special schools and PRUs. This is an increase of 25p per pupil in mainstream schools compared with the current year and reflects the need to maintain staffing levels as the number of pupils across maintained schools decreases.

6. Educational Visits

- 6.1. It was agreed to recommend that de-delegation for the Educational Visits Service remain at the same rates as 2020-21 (£1 per pupil for primary and secondary/ £4 per pupil Special and PRU).
- 6.2. Whilst the number of maintained schools will decrease in 2022-23 the service has a high level of buy back from academies and therefore it was considered that the level of de-delegation could remain the same. This is to be reviewed in future years due to the need to meet increases in staffing costs within the service.

7. DfE Consultation on changes to funding for School Improvement

- 7.1. The committee considered a paper on the DfE consultation on changes to funding for LA school improvement activities which would lead to a reduction in grant and subsequent de-delegation of funding from maintained schools to fund these activities.
- 7.2. No proposals were brought to the committee as the consultation has not yet closed however it was agreed that a proposal may need to be brought to the group prior to January Schools Forum once the DfE has published a response to the consultation outcome.
- 7.3. All members of the Committee were encouraged to respond to the consultation

