



Report to the Schools Forum

Title: Notes of Maintained Schools Subcommittee -
Proposals to Schools Forum De-delegation

Sub Committee date: 14th November 2019

Contact officer: Janaki Try, Finance Business Partner (Schools)
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Present:

Janice Freeman (Chair) King's Wood School
Martin Birch Naphill & Walters Ash School
Paula Coppins Manor Farm Infant School
Eileen Stewart Stoke Mandeville Combined
Matt Tomson Wingrave School
Buckinghamshire County Council: Janaki Try, Robert Williams
Apologies: Steven Sneesby (email)
Buckinghamshire County Council Liz Williams, Bev Black.

Fran Sturley Winslow School
David Hood Cressex School
J Spreadbury Spinfield School
Kathryn Tamlyn Cheddington Combined
Rebecca Morrisson Carrington Infant School

1. The sub-committee made reference to the table on budgets spend and carry forwards over the last few years. This informed the discussions. It was noted that £300,000 of the carry forward for contingency - schools in financial difficulties was returned to schools leaving £101,488 to be carried forward for the 2019-20 meeting in March 2020.
2. **Union Facilities** – the underspend carry forward of £28k was noted along with the £29k allocation this year totalling £57k. Concern was raised whether the de-delegated fund was used when union representatives were released to support academies because academies did not pay into this fund. Reference was made to the paper by Bev Black which stated '*The funding supports release to undertake work in maintained schools only; completely separate arrangements apply to union work in academies.*' Reference was also made to lack of claims in 2018-19 and possibly again in 2019-20 as '*Based on this year's situation a large proportion of the budget is likely to remain unclaimed, mainly because a significant proportion of the eligible union officials are currently either retired members or work on a supply basis (this has been the case for a number of years) and thus are not entitled to claim.*' On this basis the meeting proposed not to de-delegate the 70p per pupil in 2020-21 and to reconsider the position again next year.

3. **Contingency for schools in financial difficulties.** – There was some discussion about deficit schools. Ms Try reminded the meeting that the fund was for schools in deficit or in-year deficit of 2%. The fund was to cover the cost of unforeseen circumstances and that evidence had to be provided to the panel as each application would have to stand alone. Ms Morrisson stated that she had not found the application process straightforward. Ms Try explained that last year she had tried to support the process by making exemplar materials available to schools considering making applications, and requested ideas to add to the list of helpful hints on Schoolsweb. Ms Try also stated that the original rates proposed were lower than in previous years in recognition of the actual spend in recent years. The subcommittee agreed to the original proposals of £7 and £8.75 for primary and secondary respectively.
4. **Contingency deficit write offs for schools converting to academies.** - It was noted that the write offs were for RI schools in a sponsored conversion. The subcommittee asked for likely costs for this year and the next as the local authority should, because of the lead time required for conversion, now be aware of the level of deficits of schools converting in 2020-21. Ms Try stated she would obtain the figures and the meeting agreed if the required spend was low then it was proposed that there will be no dedelegation for 2020-21, but that this decision will be reconsidered for the following year. (Post meeting Ms Try confirmed the write-offs will be minimal for this year and so the proposal for no dedelegation in 2020-21 only is confirmed).
5. **Supply Cover** - dedelegation as per the original proposals 30p per pupil.
6. **Finance support for schools with deficit budgets** – Ms Try welcomed any comments on the Service Offer included in the papers for the meeting. It was noted that the budget for this delegation was not based on claims like some of the other funds and that it was to cover the cost of staff and travel etc. involved in this service. Mr Hood requested a year-end summary of the service e.g. list of schools supported and their outcomes so that the group could take a view regarding the value for money of this service that maintained schools were funding. Ms Try agreed to his request. The meeting agreed the original charge of £2.50 per pupil.
7. **Educational visits** – It was noted that academies were also paying for the service at the same rate as for maintained schools but with an additional £50 administration charge per school. The subcommittee agreed the original proposals of £1 per pupil/£4 for special and PRUs.
8. **Dedelegation for Special Schools and PRUs** – Mr Sneesby contributed by email, and this was shared at the meeting. ‘I have discussed the proposals for former ESG funded services with the other Special School Heads who are Forum members. We would like to continue with the 2019 2020 rate of £14 per pupil.’

9. Subcommittee's proposals - Total dedelegation

- Primary: £10.80 per pupil - reduced from £15.50
- Secondary: £12.55 per pupil - reduced from £17.25
- Special/PRUs: £14.00 – no change

The appendix shows the summary of the proposals to be put forward to Schools Forum in December 2019 for final decision via a vote of all maintained school members.