



# Report to Schools Forum

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Title:** De-Delegation Proposals 2022-23

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## **Recommendations:**

**To continue with the arrangements agreed last year, that the details of any de-delegation proposals for 2022-23 be considered at a meeting of the maintained schools subcommittee with recommendations to be brought back to Schools Forum for final decisions.**

**Reason for decision:** to enable consideration of the de-delegation levels for 2022-23.

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to set out the details for existing de-delegations and former ESG funded services de-delegations 2022-23 for consideration by Schools Forum. The latest DfE Operational Guide published in August 2021 makes no changes to the De-delegation definition or guidance.
- 1.2. It is proposed that, as in previous years, a Maintained Schools sub-committee is established to consider the detailed proposals.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1. Last year Schools Forum referred the de-delegation proposals to the Maintained Schools subcommittee and its recommendations were taken back to schools forum for a final decision. A paper setting out the services and the rates for ‘Existing’ delegation and services previously funded from the general funding rate of the ESG (for maintained schools only) was discussed at the subcommittee meeting. The Schools Forum constitution requires any final decision to be made at a formal Schools Forum meeting. Only maintained school representatives may vote on de-delegation proposals affecting their schools.

### 3. “Existing” De-delegated Services

- 3.1. Existing’ de-delegated services are for maintained schools only; funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or ‘de-delegated’, for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with schools forum approval. This type of de-delegation does not apply to special schools, nursery schools, or PRUs.
- 3.2. Any decisions made to de-delegate in 2021-22 related to that year only. New decisions will be required for any service to be de-delegated in 2022-23. Schools Forum members for primary maintained schools, and secondary maintained schools, must decide separately for each phase whether the service should be provided centrally. They must decide on fixed contributions for these services so that funding can then be removed from the formula before school budgets are issued. There may be different decisions for each phase.
- 3.3. De-delegated has historically been agreed for:
  - 3.3.1. Contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)
  - 3.3.2. Staff costs supply cover (for example, long-term sickness and maternity, trade union and public duties).
- 3.4. Appendix A details the de-delegated services and associated amounts for the current year. In the current year it was decided not to de-delegate funding for “Contingency – Deficits in Closing Schools” or “Staff Costs – Union Facilities”. It was agreed that this should be reviewed for 2022-23.
- 3.5. It was further decided to reduce the rate of de-delegation for “cover for small schools” in 2021-22 to £0.20 per pupil.

### 4. Former ESG funded Services

- 4.1. Local authorities can fund services previously funded from the general funding rate of the ESG (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum.
- 4.2. The relevant maintained schools members of the schools forum (primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units (PRUs), should agree the amount the local authority will retain. A single rate should be set (per 5 to 16 year old pupil) for all mainstream maintained schools. Local authorities can choose to establish differential rates for special schools and PRUs expressed per-place rather than per-pupil and this will 4 x per pupil funding.
- 4.3. Appendix B provides further details of the current year de-delegation at the 2021-22 rates of £3.50 per pupil in primary and secondary maintained schools and £14 per place in special schools and PRUs.

## 5. Pupil Numbers

5.1. The following data will be used for modelling purposes for 2022-23. The figures are based on the October 2020 census, updated for expected academy conversions. The final number will be updated for the October 2021 census:

	<b>October 2020 Census</b>	<b>Estimated Academy Conversion Pupil Numbers</b>	<b>Revised Pupil Numbers for 2022-23 modelling</b>
Primary	33,660	1,554	32,105
Secondary	6,052	924	5,129
	<b>39,712</b>	<b>2,478</b>	<b>37,234</b>

5.2. For ESG de-delegation the number of special school and PRU places will also be required. This is currently estimated as 1,229.

