



Notes of the Maintained Schools Committee

Date: 16th November 2022

Present: J Freeman (Chair) - Kings Wood School, K Shabbier – Cressex School, E Stewart – Stoke Mandeville Combined School, J Antrobus – Newtown School, P Ayres – Chestnut Lane School, N Alexandre – Chartridge School, G Bull – Haddenham St Mary’s School, M Harris – Stonydean School, N Strain – Stonydean School, M Williams – Vale Federation, J Carson – Ley Hill School, L Edlin – Buckinghamshire Primary PRU, S Crombie – Ashmead School, M Pickover – Ashmead School, J Robertson – Brushwood Junior School, G Hargreaves – Burford School, D Evans – Farnham Common School, E Williams – Head of Finance (Children’s Services), G Drawmer – Head of Achievement and Learning, M Harwin – Outdoor Education Adviser.

1. De-delegation to fund School Improvement Activities

- 1.1. The committee considered proposals for the de-delegation of funding from maintained schools to cover School Improvement activities following the cessation of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage Grant from April 2023.
- 1.2. The report identified core school improvement activities that had previously been funded from the grant.
- 1.3. 3 options were considered:

Option One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full de-delegation for Side by Side to start from FY2023/24 at a rate of £16.01 per pupil. • Reserved School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage Grant monies to be re-allocated to other school improvement activities/projects • Schools Forum to be consulted with regards to school improvement priorities for maintained schools.
Option Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-delegation is phased in between FY2023/24 and FY2028/29 with year 1 de-delegation proposed at £2.40 per pupil. • Reserved grant monies are wound down over the same period to supplement the school improvement funding to support maintained schools to the forecast annual spend.



Option Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserved grant funding is used exclusively to support Side by Side school improvement until it is exhausted (current forecast to be during FY2025/26). • Full de-delegation for Side by Side from this time onwards.
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- 1.4. It was noted that Schools Forum can only agree de-delegation for one year and therefore any decision would need to be brought back on an annual basis.
- 1.5. It was agreed to recommend the option to de-delegate £2.40 per pupil in 2023-24 without committing to the amounts for future years given in the option appraisal. The Committee requested further discussion with schools prior to any decision for 2024-25.

2. Contingency Fund

- 2.1. The committee reviewed the sums carried forward from 2021-22 and the budget available for the current year against levels of spend in previous years.
- 2.2. It was agreed that there should be no further de-delegation from schools for the contingency fund in 2023-24 as there is sufficient funding available to cover future bids against this fund.
- 2.3. 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.

3. Contingency – deficits for closing schools

- 3.1. 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.

4. Trade Union Facilities

- 4.1. The committee reviewed the sums carried forward from 2021-22 and the budget available for the current year against levels of spend in the current and previous years.
- 4.2. The committee also considered a more detailed report detailing the purpose and utilisation of TU facilities funds.
- 4.3. It was agreed that there should be no further de-delegation from schools for TU facilities in 2023-24 as there is sufficient funding available to cover drawdowns.
- 4.4. It was agreed that the committee recognised the need to continue to ensure that there is funding to enable backfill for TU reps and that the de-delegation should be reviewed every year.

5. Cover for small schools

- 5.1. Expenditure in previous years was reviewed and it was agreed to recommend to Schools Forum that no funding is de-delegated in 2023-24 as funding will be rolled forward from previous years. This is to be reviewed on an annual basis.

6. Finance Support for Schools in Financial Difficulties

- 6.1. 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 in line with 2022-23 de-delegation levels.

7. Educational Visits

- 7.1. It was agreed to recommend that de-delegation for the Educational Visits Service remain at the same rates as 2022-23 (£1 per pupil for primary and secondary/ £4 per pupil Special and PRU).
- 7.2. 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.

