

Schools Forum

October 11th 2013

Delegation of Central Dedicated Schools Grant

This report relates only to maintained schools

Voting = School Members can vote on a sector basis

Recommendation

1.0 The Primary School Schools Forum members are recommended to agree that the budgets includes in Column A of Table 3 are retained by the Local Authority for 2014/15

2.0 The Secondary School Schools Forum members are recommended to agree that the budgets includes in Column B of Table 3 are retained by the Local Authority for 2014/15

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Schools Forum will recall that as part of the schools funding reforms, implemented in April 2013, there are certain budget headings that had historically been retained centrally by the Local Authority that schools should have delegated to them in the first instance and, where agreed by the Forum, they can be de-delegated.

1.2 This decision is not relevant to academy schools as the Local Authority cannot de-delegate their funding. However, where the Local Authority retains funding and services to maintained schools, the Schools Funding Regulations encourage the trading of such services with academies.

2.0 Consultation

2.1 Consultation has been undertaken with both primary and secondary maintained schools albeit that the responses have not been high. The consultation was carried out partly at the spring term Head teacher Business Meetings and partly via email.

2.2 The results of the consultation are as follows:

2.3 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

| Table one | De-delegate | Delegate |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| School Improvement | 20 | 3 |
| Free School Meal Eligibility | 23 | 0 |
| Gypsy and Romany Travellers | 18 | 3 |
| English as an Additional Language | 16 | 7 |
| Behaviour Support Services | 20 | 3 |
| Trade Union Facility Time | 17 | 6 |
| Medical Referral of Employees | 22 | 1 |

2.4 As was the case last year, most of the schools who responded want the Local Authority to retain the funding and provide services to which they can access as and when required.

2.5 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

| Table Two | De-delegate | Delegate |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Free School Meal Eligibility | 4 | 0 |
| English as an Additional Language | 3 | 1 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Trade Union Facility Time | 4 | 0 |
| Medical Referral of Employees | 4 | 0 |

2.6 As with the primary sector, most of the respondents want the Local Authority to retain this funding. More details of the services provided by this funding are attached in Appendix A.

3.0 Budgets De-delegated

3.1 In terms of the funding that the Local Authority is likely to retain next year in relation to these services, the table below indicates the expected position which is based on an estimate for the number of schools that will be an academy in April 2014.

Table 3

| | Column A | Column B | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Primary-estimated 2014/15 budget | Secondary - estimated budget 2014/15 | TOTAL estimated budget 2014/15 |
| School Improvement | 238,218 | | 238,218 |
| Free School Meals Admin | 31,580 | 7,408 | 38,988 |
| Gypsy Romany Travellers | 161,754 | | 161,754 |
| English as an additional language | 216,433 | 50,768 | 267,201 |
| Trade Union Facilities | 113,731 | 26,677 | 140,408 |
| Medical Referral | 25,817 | 6,056 | 31,873 |
| Behavioural Support Services | 37,507 | | 37,507 |
| TOTAL | 825,040 | 90,909 | 915,949 |

3.2 These retained budgets are £90,000 lower than last year, a reduction that is due to the increase in academy schools in Warwickshire.

3.3 The Local Authority can, if it wishes, decide not to retain the funding and as more and more schools convert to academy status and trading is not relevant or strong enough, there is likely to become a point where service provision is no longer viable. Whilst schools have requested that this funding is retained, the Local Authority needs to ensure that it is able to provide a quality service within the budget and that the provision of the service meets its objectives. Should the Local Authority decide that it wants to force delegation of any of this funding, an update will be brought to the December Schools Forum meeting.

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