

Schools Forum

22 June 2023

Consultation Timetable 2023-24

This report relates to maintained and academy schools and is for approval

Recommendation

Schools Forum is recommended to:

1. Representatives from maintained schools to approve the timetable for de-delegation for 2024-25.
2. All Schools Forum representatives to approve the estimated timetable for any potential need to consult with schools on the National Funding Formula and any potential transfers between funding blocks, for example, from the schools Block DSG to the High Needs Block.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Each Year Schools Forum are required to approve proposed timetables for a number of statutory consultations.
- 1.2 These cover the following areas, and the following Schools Forum representatives are required to approve the respective timetable proposals:
 - De-delegation of funding from mainstream maintained schools - maintained school representatives
 - To transfer up to 0.5% from, for example, the Schools Block DSG to, for example, the High Needs Block DSG – all Schools Forum representatives

2. De-delegation

- 2.1 De-delegation is an option that enables some services to maintained schools to be provided centrally and the funding to do so be retained by the local authority. If de-delegation stops then the centrally retained funding would be delegated in the main school budget and the local authority would either stop providing or charge for the service.
- 2.2 For information, the services approved by Schools Forum-maintained schools representatives for de-delegation in 2023-24 were as follows:

| Service | Primary | Secondary |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Free Schools Meal Eligibility | ✓ | ✓ |
| English as an Additional Language | ✓ | ✓ |
| Trade Union Facility Time Funding | ✓ | ✓ |
| School Improvement | ✓ | x |
| Gypsy and Romany Travellers | ✓ | x |
| Behaviour Support Services | ✓ | x |
| Medical Referrals for Employees | ✓ | x |

- 2.3 Please note when DfE removed the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant allocated to Local Authorities (which came into effect from April 2023) the Secretary of State retained the power to approve the de-delegation contrary to the decision of Schools Forum. This is to ensure councils are adequately funded to exercise their core school improvement activities should Schools Forum not be in favour of the de- delegation.
- 2.4 For 2023/24 the School Improvement reserve will be utilised to fund activity that was previously funded by the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant (as agreed by Schools Forum). For 2024/25, the de-delegation timetable and proposals will include this activity.
- 2.5 Warwickshire currently has 1 secondary maintained school and 113 maintained primary schools.
- 2.6 The proposed de-delegation timetable is as follows:

| Date | Action |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Monday, 26 June 2023 | Consultation sent to all maintained Primary and Secondary Schools (Headteachers and Chairs of Governors) |
| Friday, 15 September 2023 | Deadline for Schools to respond to the consultation |
| Thursday, 28 September 2023 | Schools Forum receive responses from schools and make de-delegation decisions for 2024/25 budgets. |

4. National Funding Formula and 0.5% transfer to High Need Block

- 4.1 Since the introduction of the National Funding Formula from 1 April 2018, Warwickshire Schools Forum, with the approval of councillors, has moved to replicating the 'hard' formula.
- 4.2 The first indication of Warwickshire's funding for 2024-25 is expected to be towards the end of August 2023 when the ESFA publishes indicative DSG allocations. These will be based on October 2022 school census data pupil numbers and will be updated in December 2023 to reflect the actual October 2023 census data.
- 4.3 Financial modelling will be undertaken when the indicative DSG allocations are published in August to understand the overall affordability of continuing with the steady state and what headroom may be available to fund other options. One of these may be, for example, the transfer of up to 0.5% of schools block DSG to the High Needs Block.
- 4.4 The proposed timetable for consulting schools and school's forum on funding proposals for 2024-25 is detailed in the table below. Please note that the ESFA have not yet confirmed the Disapplication deadline for 2024/25 and therefore this timetable is subject to change. If the deadline changes, the Extraordinary Schools Forum meeting scheduled for 16 November may also need to change.

| Date | Action |
|----------------------------|---|
| Monday, 11 September 2023 | Provisional date to send out consultation to schools on any changes to the 'soft' National Funding Formula and proposals on any 0.5% disapplication. Consultation will run for 5 weeks. |
| Thursday, 16 November 2023 | Provisional date for extraordinary Schools Forum to discuss outcomes from consultation with schools. |
| Friday, 17 November 2023 | Estimated Deadline for submitting any disapplication to the ESFA to move up to 0.5% of funding from the schools block to the high needs block |

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