

**Report to:** Schools Forum

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Report of:** Kirsty Lister, Schools Finance Business Partner

**Title:** De-Delegated Budgets Proposal for 2024/25

**Status:** For Formal Vote

## **1. Purpose of the Report**

This report covers prescribed activities/commitments that are required to be delegated through the mainstream Reception to Year 11 formula, but for which the LA can propose de-delegation for LA maintained primary and secondary schools only.

### **De-delegation does not apply to special schools, nursery schools, or PRUs**

Schools forum members for primary maintained schools and secondary maintained schools must as set out in the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012 decide separately for each phase whether the service should be provided centrally; the decision will apply to all maintained mainstream schools in that phase

They must decide on fixed contributions for these services so that funding can then be removed from the formula before school budgets are issued

For 2024/25 the LA is to propose the continuation of three existing de-delegation areas of commitment

## **2. De-Delegation areas**

**The three existing areas are:**

- Contingencies: to fund residual costs arising from the opening/closing of schools, deficits of discontinued schools, schools in financial difficulties, and other expenditure where the circumstances were unforeseen.
- Facilities Time: this enables the costs of releasing city-wide union representatives to be shared between schools, so that they do not fall disproportionately on the staffing of a small number of schools with these representatives.
- Behavioural Support Services: this is part of helping to sustain inclusion. The budget will allow resourcing of short-term programmes and preventative type work via the City of Birmingham School to continue while alternative models are developed for future years.

We propose to increase the unit rate by 3% as per National Funding Formula increase per pupil based on the rate in 2023/24, however academisation and pupil number changes will effect the overall de-delegation amount per schools

The LA seeks response from Forum members representing maintained primary and secondary schools only, to agree to continue the above three areas for de-delegation for 2024/25 and the increase of 3% (see Appendix 1 table).

### **Other background**

De-delegation is not an option for Nursery Schools, Special Schools, PRUs or Academies. Their proportion of the budget is already delegated.

It is to be noted that for each proposed area for de-delegation, it is for the Schools Forum members in the relevant phase (primary or secondary) to decide whether that service should be provided centrally. The decision would apply to all maintained mainstream schools in that phase and result in the funding for these services being removed from the formula before school budgets are issued. There could be different decisions made for each phase.

Other possible items which can be de-delegated include:

- Free School Meals eligibility
- School Improvement
- Insurance
- Licences / Subscriptions
- Staff costs – supply cover excluding facility time
- Support to underperforming ethnic minority groups and bilingual learners
- Museum and library services

Schools' Forum representatives for the relevant phases have previously decided not to de - delegate these aspects, therefore figures have not been provided.

### **Recommendations/Discussions**

Schools Forum are asked to vote on each de-delegation proposal on behalf of each sector

## Appendix 1: De-Delegation Items Proposal for 2024/25

De-Delegation Item	NOR 2023/24	£ Unit Rate 2023/24	£ 2023/24 Amount	NOR 2024/25	£ Unit Rate 2024/25	£ 2024/25
Contingencies-Primary	56,077	15.23	854,053	54,162	15.69	849,802
Contingencies-Secondary	14,801	15.23	225,419	14,955	15.69	234,644
Staff costs supply cover - Primary	56,077	4.32	242,252	54,162	4.45	241,021
Staff costs supply cover - Secondary	14,801	3.55	52,543	14,955	3.66	54,735
Behaviour support services-Primary	56,077	4.79	268,608	54,162	4.93	267,019
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,642,875</b>			<b>1,647,221</b>

NOR – Number on roll

