

Report to: Schools Forum

Date: 7th December 2023

Report of: Kirsty Lister, Schools Finance Business Partner

Title: De-Delegated Budgets Proposal for 2024/25

Status: For Discussion

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.

The consultation will be published to all schools and the responses will be collated and summarised for the forum. Schools Forum will then be 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 forecast 2024/25	£ Unit Rate 2024/25	£ 2024/25 Forecast
Contingencies-Primary	56,077	15.23	854,053	55,399	15.69	869,210
Contingencies-Secondary	14,801	15.23	225,419	14,793	15.69	232,102
Staff costs supply cover -Primary	56,077	4.32	242,252	55,399	4.45	246,526
Staff costs supply cover -Secondary	14,801	3.55	52,543	14,793	3.66	54,142
Behaviour support services-Primary	56,077	4.79	268,608	55,399	4.93	273,117
Total			1,642,875			1,675,097

NOR – Number on roll

