

SCHOOLS FORUM

Meeting date: 27th November 2020

From: Dan Barton, Assistant Director – Education & Skills

DE-DELEGATION 2021-22

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 *Following the school funding arrangements announced in July 2020 it has been confirmed that de-delegation will continue to be an option for maintained schools in 2021-22. The maintained school representatives on the Schools Forum are required on an annual basis to decide on the de-delegation options.*
- 1.2 *At the Schools Forum meeting held on 3rd July 2020 the maintained school representatives agreed that the council should continue to arrange insurance services on behalf of the schools it maintains.*
- 1.3 *The Cumbria Schools Forum maintained school representatives are asked to vote on the de-delegation options for 2021-22.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 *Ensuring that Cumbrian schools are funded appropriately is supportive of the Council Plan outcome that 'People in Cumbria are healthy and safe'.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 *The maintained Schools Forum representatives to decide upon the de-delegated budgets for 2021-22.*

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Further to the funding announcements in July 2020, de-delegation will continue to be an option for maintained schools in 2021-22. De-delegated

services are for maintained schools only, funding of these services must be allocated through the Schools Block via the school funding formula but can be passed back (de-delegated) for maintained primary and secondary schools with Schools Forum approval.

4.2 The services that the de-delegated budgets apply to also impact maintained PRUs, special schools and nursery schools and therefore an element is centrally retained in both the Early Years and High Needs Block for these services, although there is no de-delegation process for these two areas.

4.3 The current de-delegated services for 2020-21 are set out below:

De-delegated Service	Primary	Secondary
Contingencies	√	√
Staff Costs	√	√
Insurance	√	√
Library Services	√	X

4.4 A breakdown of the services provided under these headings is at Appendix 1 to this paper. Contingencies include exceptional unforeseen costs, schools in financial difficulties and costs relating to new, re-organised or closed schools. The Staffing costs include maternity and union duties reimbursements.

4.5 The schools forum members at its meeting held on 3rd July 2020 considered a paper detailing the differences between the current Council arranged insurance and the new government Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), which had been extended to allow maintained schools to join from April 2020. The RPA is not mandatory and the schools can continue with the existing insurance arrangements where it provides good value for money. The schools forum representatives for maintained schools considered the options and decided to continue to de-delegate the budget for insurances and that the Council should continue to arrange insurance services on behalf of maintained primary, secondary schools and PRUs, special schools and nursery schools.

4.6 Therefore, maintained school representatives are asked to vote separately for the primary and secondary phases on whether to also continue to de-delegated the Contingency, Staffing and Library services 2021-22. The decision is binding for all schools in that phase.

4.7 As per last year, it is not anticipated that there will be significant change from the 2020-21 budgets as shown in the below table:

	Schools Block	High Needs Block	Early Years Block	Total 2021-22	Total 2020-21	Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Contingencies	0.615	0.006	0.044	0.666	0.666	0.000
Insurance	0.620	0.007	0.044	0.671	0.704	(0.033)
Staff Costs	0.913	0.009	0.066	0.987	0.987	0.000
Library Services	0.438	0.005	0.031	0.474	0.474	0.000
Total	2.586	0.028	0.184	2.798	2.831	(0.033)

4.8 There is a small reduction in insurance costs this relates to the lower property insurance premiums achieved following the recent insurance retender. It is proposed to keep the Contingencies, Staff costs and Library Services at the same level as in 2020-21. The number of schools being supported by these budgets has reduced by two so far during 2020-21, with Lamplugh expected to become a sponsored academy with a provision date of 1st January 2021, and the total de-delegated budgets associated with these schools is £0.010m. The majority of the de-delegated budgets are linked to staff pay and therefore it is recommended that they continue, as in previous years, at the same level despite pay increases.

4.9 The local authority has also been made aware that 7 maintained catholic schools have applied to form a new multi academy trust with a potential conversion date of 1st April 2021. The total de-delegated budgets associated with these schools is currently £0.156m. If these schools do convert by that date this will mean the local authority will no longer be required to provide these services to these schools and the budgets supported by de-delegation will need to be adjusted down accordingly, however, it is not known at this stage if the conversion date for these schools will be confirmed before the DSG budget is finalised in January 2021.

4.10 The figures in the table above are indicative figures only, final de-delegated budgets will be confirmed in January 2021 and the split between blocks will be based on the October 2020 census pupil data.

5.0 OPTIONS

5.1 The maintained school representatives of the Schools Forum are required to decide separately by phase upon the de-delegated budget for Contingencies, Staff Costs and Library services for 2021-22.

6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Resource and value for money implications are considered throughout this report.

6.2 The DfE has allocated provisional block allocations to local authorities for 2021-22, however, these are provisional only and will be updated in

December 2020 based on pupil numbers and data on the October 2020 census.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This paper presents to the Schools Forum the options for maintained schools de-delegation for 2021-22.
- 7.2 The Schools Forum representatives are asked to vote on the de-delegation options (maintained school representatives only).

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Accompanying Documents:

Appendix 1 – De-delegation Budgets 2020-21

REPORT AUTHOR

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