

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 15 JANUARY 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN

De-Delegation of School Budgets

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks a decision by Forum representatives of maintained schools on the possible de-delegation of a number of services to schools, where there is a preference to continue a central service.

2. BACKGROUND

In 2013-14 following DfE regulations a number of services were delegated to schools that were previously provided centrally by the LA. There are some of these service areas where Schools Forum members, in their relevant phase, are able to decide, on behalf of their schools, that funding should be de-delegated and taken out of formula budgets before schools receive them. These amounts would then continue to be held centrally to fund specific services for schools. Regulations provide for different decisions being made for each phase. The members eligible to vote are shown on the attached table.

3. BUDGETS FOR DE-DELEGATION

- **Contingency**

The budget for exceptional/unforeseen costs that it would be unreasonable for governing bodies to meet. This has been amended to move £56,000 for vulnerable children to the Behaviour Support budget below, with a small increase on the remainder.

- **Special Staff Costs**

Teacher maternity, paternity and trade union facility costs for both teaching and non-teaching staff.

With regard to Trade Union Facility Time, guidance confirms that representatives are entitled to reasonable paid time off during working hours to undertake Trade Union duties and relevant training. Wirral like many LAs has a local agreement in place. The budget for facility time includes non-teacher representation. Where funding is not de-delegated schools manage their own budget and make their own facility time arrangements. For 2020-21 a small increase is included to allow for increases to teachers pay and employer pension contributions whilst maintaining the current level of support, as agreed by Forum in January 2019.

The maternity / paternity rate is also increased for 2020-21 due to an increase in cases in recent years resulting in an overspend on this budget.

- **School Library Service**
The provision of learning resources to schools, such as books, artefacts, posters and DVDs.
The School Library Service has requested an increase in the per pupil rate for the first time in several years to enable them to retain their current book fund which has significantly reduced as a result of cost and inflation pressures. This will enable them to maintain current levels of service and resources.
- **Insurance**
The cost of governor's liability insurance for Aided schools.
- **Behaviour Support**
The cost of a small team working with Wirral's Primary, Secondary and Special schools. As referred to above, this also includes £56,000 for vulnerable children transferred from Contingency.
- **School Improvement**
School Improvement was included as a de-delegated service from September 2017 following the withdrawal of ESG. The budget supports the improvement / intervention programme with schools.
- **Former ESG General Duties**
These are the cost of education services previously funded from Education Services Grant (ESG) to support maintained schools, including asset management (landlord) responsibilities, some premature retirement costs and statutory / regulatory costs around, finance, LMS and internal audit.

4. DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2019-20

In the January 2019 meeting members of the forum made the following decisions:-

- The Primary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate all of the budget areas, apart from Free School Meals.
- The Primary Forum Representatives agreed a contribution to former ESG costs for General Duties of £363,256.
- The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate all of the budget areas, apart from Free School Meals.
- The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed a contribution to former ESG costs for General Duties of £65,373.
- The Special schools forum Representatives agreed a contribution to former ESG costs for General Duties of £71,101.

5. SUMMARY OF BUDGETS FOR DE-DELEGATION

The tables below identify the budget for primary and secondary schools, how the budget is allocated through the formula and the amount per pupil to be deducted if it is de-delegated.

Primary Budget	Amount Delegated £	Method of Delegation	Amount per Pupil £	Average per School £ (300 pupils)
Contingency	71,137	Pupil	2.76	828
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	618,812	Pupil	23.98	7,194
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	91,099	Pupil	3.53	1,059
School Library Service	226,585	Pupil	8.78	2,634
Insurance	30,753	Pupil	1.19	357
Behaviour Support	92,150	SEN PA	11.98	3,594
School Improvement	150,507	Pupil	5.83	1,749
Total	1,281,043			17,415

Secondary Budget	Amount Delegated £	Method of Delegation	Amount per Pupil £	Average per School £ (1,000 pupils)
Contingency	39,091	Pupil	2.15	2,150
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	561,588	Pupil	30.90	30,900
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	64,158	Pupil	3.53	3,530
Behaviour Support	114,449	SEN PA	29.04	29,040
School Improvement	143,993	Pupil	7.92	7,920
Total	923,279			73,540

Ex Education Services Grant (ESG) - General Duties

Primary and Secondary Budget	Amount	Method	Amount per Pupil £	Primary Average £ (300 pupils)	Secondary Average £ (1000 pupils)
ESG General Duties	428,240	Pupil-Maintained Schools only	17.35	5,205	17,350
ESG General Duties- Special School Contribution	71,760				
Total	500,000				

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Primary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2020-21:-
 - a. Contingency
 - b. Special Staff Costs, including TU Facilities Time
 - c. School Library Service
 - d. Insurance
 - e. School Improvement
 - f. Behaviour support
2. The Primary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of **£371,973**.
3. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2020-21:-
 - a. Contingency
 - b. Special Staff Costs, including TU Facilities Time
 - c. School Improvement
 - d. Behaviour support
4. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of **£56,267**.
5. The Special School Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of **£71,760**.

Paul Boyce
Corporate Director for Children

Forum Members eligible to Vote

Primary Representatives

Rebecca Bridges	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead S)
Nikki Lightwing	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead N)
Emily Morris	Primary Headteacher (Wallasey)
Kate Brown	Primary Headteacher (Deeside)
Liz Davidson	Primary Headteacher (Beb/Brom)
Dave Spencer	Primary Governor
Roy Wood	Primary Governor
Tim Kelly	Primary Governor
Cllr Tony Norbury	Primary Governor

Secondary Representatives

Tony Taylor	Secondary Headteacher
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Special Representatives

Margaret Morris	Special Headteacher
John Weise	Special Governor