

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **SCHOOLS FORUM – 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION**

#### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MONITORING AND BROAKERAGE GRANT CONSULTATION OUTCOME**

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### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Forum with feedback from the consultation with schools on the de-delegation of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage grant (SIMBG).

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The SIMBG has been allocated to local authorities since September 2017 to allow them to continue monitor performance of maintained schools, broker school improvement provision and intervene as appropriate. The grant allocation was based on the number of maintained schools within the area and replaced the previous Education Services Grant (ESG) at a significantly reduced funding value.
- 2.2 In October 2021, Department for Education (DfE) launched the consultation “Reforming how local authorities’ school improvement functions are funded” and its outcome was published in January 2022, which confirmed that the grant payment to local authorities that funds the provision of school improvement services to local authority maintained schools would reduce by 50% in 2022-23 and be removed entirely in 2023-24.
- 2.3 The Council received £333k for SIMBG for the financial year 2021/22 and the grant is used to fund service provision for core school improvement activities for maintained secondary, primary and special schools in Wirral.
- 2.4 In line with the guidance issued by the DfE in the consultation response document, the Schools Forum’s views on schools to de-delegate funding in the financial year 2023-24 to recoup the loss of income was sought at the October 22 meeting.
- 2.5 It has been agreed at the meeting that the consultation process commenced in October 2022.

### **3.0 2022-23 FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 The consultation took place between 12th October 2022 to 9th November and sought views on the following:
- Tiered funding model - group the maintained schools into 4 groups by their pupil numbers using the October 21 census. 4 groups and each tier’s contribution rate are proposed as the table below:

	<b>Rate per school</b>
For Schools with 199 pupils or less	£2,200
For Schools with 200-399 pupils	£3,400
For Schools with 400-699 pupils	£5,700
For Schools above 700 pupils	£12,000

- Per pupil model - £13.00 per pupil

#### **4.0 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES**

4.1 There were 11 responses to the consultation and the outcome is summarised as table below:

Tiered Funding Model	6
Per Pupil Model	1
Opposed the de-delegations	1
Pending reply with queries	3

4.2 Individual queries have been communicated directly with the relevant responders. AD for Education will have verbal updates at the November 22 meeting.

#### **5.0 APPLICATION OF THE CONSULTATION OUTCOME**

5.1 The tiered funding model is applied as a preferred option for the de-delegation of the SIMBG

5.2 The SIMBG will be included in the de-delegated budget.

#### **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 That the Forum notes the report.

**Simone White**  
**Director of Children, Families and Education**