

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 17th JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

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. There is no change to the per pupil rate of £2.15 for Secondary schools nor a change in the rate of £1.13 for Primary schools respectively.

- **Special Staff Costs**

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

The current rate seems to be sufficient to cover the demand and the special staff costs is forecast to be in line with the budget in the financial year 2022-23 therefore the rate for Special Staff (Maternity and Paternity) remains unchanged.

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. The rate for 2023-24 has increased by 11p to £3.71 per pupil, anticipating pay award for 2023-24 academic year.

- **School Library Service**

The provision of learning resources to schools, such as books, artefacts, posters, and DVDs. The School Library Service per pupil rate remains unchanged this year at £8.78 per Primary school pupil.

- **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. There is no change to the per SEN PA rate of £29.04 for Secondary schools nor for the £17.35 rate for Primary schools respectively.

- **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.

- **The School Improvement and Monitoring and Brokerage Grant (SIMBG)**

From 2023-24 the SIMBG will be included in the de-delegated budget. The tiered funding model has been applied as a preferred option for the de-delegation of the SIMBG as agreed at the November Forum meeting.

4. DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2022-23

In the January 2022 meeting members of the forum made the following decisions: -

- The Primary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate all the budget areas.
- The Primary Forum Representatives agreed a contribution to former ESG costs for General Duties of £365,940.
- The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate all the budget areas.
- The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed a contribution to former ESG costs for General Duties of £57,920.
- The Special School Forum Representatives agreed a contribution to former ESG costs for General Duties of £76,140.

From November 2022

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

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	22,614	Pupil	1.13	339
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	550,530	Pupil	27.51	8,253
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	74,245	Pupil	3.71	1,113
School Library Service	175,705	Pupil	8.78	2,634
Insurance	23,814	Pupil	1.19	357
Behaviour Support	106,392	SEN PA **	17.35	*1,595
School Improvement	116,670	Pupil	5.83	1,749
Total	1,069,970	(*31% LPA pupils/**6,132)		16,040

Secondary Budget	Amount Delegated £	Method of Delegation	Amount per Pupil £	Average per School (1,000 Pupils) £
Contingency	7,721	Pupil	2.15	2,150
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	123,638	Pupil	34.43	34,430
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	13,323	Pupil	3.71	3,710
Behaviour Support	33,917	SEN PA **	29.04	*9,445
School Improvement	28,441	Pupil	7.92	7,920
Total	207,039	(*33% LPA pupils / **1,168)		57,655

Ex Education Service Grant (ESG) – General Duties

Primary and Secondary Budget	Amount	Method	Amount per Pupil £	Primary Average per School (300 Pupils) £	Secondary Average per School (1,000 Pupils) £
ESG General Duties	409,512	Pupil-Maintained Schools only	17.35	5,205	17,350
ESG General Duties– Special School Contribution	90,488				
Total	500,000				

School Improvement Monitoring and Brokerage Grant (SIMBG)

Primary and Secondary Budget	Amount	Method	Primary Average per School (300 Pupils) £	Secondary Average per School (1,000 Pupils) £
SIMBG	308,700	Tiered Funding Model	3,400	12,000
SIMBG– Special School Contribution	23,200			
Total	331,900			

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Primary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2023-24: -
 - 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 £347,208.
3. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2023-24: -
 - 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 £62,304.
 5. The Special School Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of £90,488.
 6. As per DfE guidance, the Primary and Secondary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to replace SIMBG costs of £308,700
 7. As per DfE guidance, the Special School Forum representatives agree a contribution to replace SIMBG costs of £23,200,

Simone White
Director for Children, Families and Education

Forum Members eligible to Vote

Group	Name	Category of Membership	School/establishment
Primary School Representatives	Andy Ramsden	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead S)	Oxton St Saviours
	Sue Ralph	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead N)	St Michael & All Angels
	John McDonald	Primary Headteacher (Wallasey)	St Alban's Primary
	Emma Johnson	Primary Headteacher (Deeside)	Greasby Junior
	Chris Mervyn	Primary Headteacher (Beb/Brom)	Brackenwood Infant School
	Charlotte Scott	Primary Governor	St George's Primary
	Shaun Allen	Primary Governor	Raeburn Avuenue
	Julie Merry	Primary Governor	Overchurch Infants/Cathcart
	Tony Norbury	Primary Governor	Prenton Primary
Secondary School Representatives	Simon Goodwin	Secondary Headteacher	South Wirral High
Special School Representatives	Margaret Morris	Special Headteacher	Elleray Park
	To be confirmed	Special Governor	