

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024

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

### De-Delegation of School Budgets

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#### 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 forecast is slightly above the budget in the financial year 2023-24. This is partly due to the pay awards which have increased the maternity and paternity costs. Therefore, the rate for Special Staff (Maternity and Paternity) is increased by £1.31 to £35.74 for Secondary schools nor a change by £1.04 to £28.55 for Primary schools line with the pay awards from September 23.

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 2024-25 has increased by 14p to £3.85 per pupil, anticipating pay award for 2024-25 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. Based on the past years expenditure, the rate for 2024-25 has reduced by 50p to £0.69 per pupil

- **Behaviour Support**

The cost of a small team working with Wirral's Primary, Secondary and special schools. The per SEN PA rates have increased by 4% to £30.20 for Secondary schools and £18.04 for Primary schools.

- **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. There is no change to the per pupil rate of £7.92 for Secondary schools nor a change in the rate of £5.83 for Primary schools respectively.

- **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 rate has increased by £1.00 to £18.35 per pupil anticipating pay award for 2024-25.

- **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 22 Forum meeting.

#### 4. 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.

<b>Primary Budget</b>	<b>Amount Delegated £</b>	<b>Method of Delegation</b>	<b>Amount per Pupil £</b>	<b>Average per School (300 Pupils) £</b>
Contingency	18,842	Pupil	1.13	339
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	476,094	Pupil	28.55	8,566
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	64,195	Pupil	3.85	1,155
School Library Service	146,398	Pupil	8.78	2,634
Insurance	11,505	Pupil	0.69	207
Behaviour Support	96,333	SEN PA **	18.04	*1,659
School Improvement	97,209	Pupil	5.83	1,749
<b>Total</b>	<b>910,576</b>	(*32% LPA pupils/**5,339)		<b>16,309</b>

<b>Secondary Budget</b>	<b>Amount Delegated £</b>	<b>Method of Delegation</b>	<b>Amount per Pupil £</b>	<b>Average per School (1,000 Pupils) £</b>
Contingency	5,831	Pupil	2.15	2,150
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	96,915	Pupil	35.74	35,736
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	10,441	Pupil	3.85	3,850
Behaviour Support	24,416	SEN PA **	30.20	*9,823
School Improvement	21,479	Pupil	7.92	7,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>159,082</b>	(*30% LPA pupils / **808)		<b>59,478</b>

### 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	355,733	Pupil-Maintained Schools only	18.35	5,505	18,350
ESG General Duties– Special School Contribution	102,505				
<b>Total</b>	<b>458,238</b>				

### 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	248,800	Tiered Funding Model	3,400	12,000
SIMBG– Special School Contribution	24,400			
<b>Total</b>	<b>273,200</b>			

Please note that the amounts for the de-delegation above are calculated with pupil numbers excluding schools which are planning to convert to academies before 1<sup>st</sup> April 24 and they might be adjusted if the conversion dates are delayed.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Primary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2024-25: -
  - 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 £305,968.

3. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2024-25: -
  - 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 £49,765.
5. The Special School Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of £102,505.
6. As per DfE guidance, the Primary and Secondary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to replace SIMBG costs of £248,800.
7. As per DfE guidance, the Special School Forum representatives agree a contribution to replace SIMBG costs of £24,400.

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

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1 Forum Members eligible to vote**

**Appendix 2 Additional information requested regarding de-delegated budgets**