

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025

## 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 about in line with the budget in the financial year 2024-25. It is expected the maternity and paternity costs will be increased in 2025-26 due to the pay awards and an increase in the national insurance contribution. Therefore, the rate for Special Staff (Maternity and Paternity) is increased by £1.97 to £37.71 for Secondary schools nor a change by £1.57 to £30.12 for Primary schools line with the pay awards.

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 2025-26 has increased by 21p to £4.06 per pupil, anticipating pay award for 2025-26.

- **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 remains unchanged this year as £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 remains unchanged this year as £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 remains unchanged this year as £18.35 per pupil.

- **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	18,804	Pupil	1.13	339
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	501,226	Pupil	30.12	9,036
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	67,562	Pupil	4.06	1,218
School Library Service	146,108	Pupil	8.78	2,634
Insurance	11,482	Pupil	0.69	207
Behaviour Support	95,662	SEN PA **	18.04	*1,725
School Improvement	97,017	Pupil	5.83	1,749
<b>Total</b>	<b>937,861</b>	(*31.9% LPA pupils/**5,303)		<b>16,908</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	7,706	Pupil	2.15	2,150
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	135,152	Pupil	37.71	37,710
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	14,551	Pupil	4.06	4,060
Behaviour Support	33,880	SEN PA **	30.20	*9,453
School Improvement	28,385	Pupil	7.92	7,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>219,674</b>	(*31.3% LPA pupils / **1,122)		<b>61,293</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	371,129	Pupil-Maintained Schools only	18.35	5,505	18,350
ESG General Duties– Special School Contribution	110,435				
<b>Total</b>	<b>481,564</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	259,500	Tiered Funding Model	3,400	12,000
SIMBG– Special School Contribution	25,600			
<b>Total</b>	<b>285,100</b>			

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Primary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2025-26: -
  - 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 £305,362
3. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2025-26 -
  - 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 £65,766
  5. The Special School Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of £110,435
  6. As per DfE guidance, the Primary and Secondary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to replace SIMBG costs of £259,500
  7. As per DfE guidance, the Special School Forum representatives agree a contribution to replace SIMBG costs of £25,600

**Elizabeth Hartley**  
**Director for Children, Families and Education**

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1 Forum Members eligible to vote**

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