

Report for Schools Forum

Service Area:	Schools Finance
Presented By:	David Baxter
Report:	De-delegation Proposals 2024/2025 – Schools Block Funding
Date:	1 st December 2023
Purpose Of Report:	To approve proposed 2024/2025 de-delegation rates for maintained schools.
Is a Decision Required?	Yes

Kirklees Schools Forum

1st December 2023

Maintained Schools

De-delegation Proposals 2024/2025 – Schools Block Funding

1. Background information

- 1.1 The Schools Operational Guide for 2024/2025 requires the Schools Forum to agree the De-delegated services for the upcoming financial year.
- 1.2 De-delegated services are for maintained schools only. Funding for de-delegated services must be allocated through the formula but can be passed back, or de-delegated, for maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools with Schools Forum approval.
- 1.3 De-delegation does not apply to special schools, nursery schools, or Pupil Referral Units (PRUs). Where de-delegation has been agreed for maintained primary and secondary schools, the ESFA's presumption is that the Local Authority will offer the service on a buyback basis to those schools and academies in their area which are not covered by the de-delegation.

2. De-delegations proposal for 2024/2025

- 2.1 The cost of living pressures continues to impact on all aspects of service delivery within both schools and the services supporting schools. The National Joint Council have offered a pay award for one year at a flat rate of £1,925 for support staff backdated to 1st April 2023. The overall increase across service providers is therefore variable but is likely to equate to an average increase of approximately 5%.
- 2.2 The current approved de-delegated services and charge rates in operation for the 2023/2024 financial year are shown in the table below:

De-Delegation Description	Primary per pupil rate	Secondary per pupil rate	Notes
School Contingency	£13.95	£17.48	Used to correct funding errors, support schools facing emergencies, pick up costs it would be unfair to ask schools to meet, one-off financial interventions in schools in financial difficulty to help them secure necessary savings.
Free school meals eligibility checks	£1.08	£1.35	Customer & Exchequer service checks to identify children eligible to claim free school meals – helps schools maximise their deprivation-related funding
Maternity, paternity, and adoptive leave	£30.79	£30.79	Central payment of salary costs during these leave periods so the school only pays the replacement costs
Trade union facilities time	£6.01	£0.00	Pays for the release from schools of local TU officials to manage casework (competence, attendance, disciplinary etc) involving school staff
Public duties	£0.17	£0.21	School cover costs re staff on jury service, appearing as witnesses in court proceedings, serving as magistrates, serving as governors at another school etc
International new arrivals	£1.66	£2.08	Support to schools dealing with language-related issues of children admitted from different parts of the world
School Improvement Commissioning	£4.73	£12.61	Supports improvement interventions in schools – appropriate support to schools for the cost of implementing improvement action plans, brokering school-to-school support by meeting the cost of releasing staff from other schools to work with the school in need of support.
TOTALS	£58.39	£64.52	

- 2.3 The de-delegation rates are reviewed annually with the proposed rates circulated to all maintained schools for consideration as part of an ongoing engagement and consultation process. The responses are then considered alongside the final Authority Pro-Forma Tool (overall allocation of 2024/2025 school finances) in January 2024.
- 2.4 The De-delegations represent probable future costs of service provision for 2024/2025 and needs to consider the impact of both inflationary pressures and academisation which reduces the number of schools contributing to the de-delegated services.

3. Proposed de-delegation rates for 2024/2025

- 3.1 Three key components underpin the proposed de-delegated rates for 2024/2025. Firstly, using the October 2022 census data (latest published version), the number of maintained pupils in 2024/2025 is anticipated to reduce by in excess of 3,000 due to proposed academisations. This is split across primary schools 9% and secondary schools 16% and equates to a reduction in de-delegation amounts totalling £188k.
- 3.2 Secondly the impact of the proposed flat rate pay award from April 2023 of £1,925 equates to an overall 5% service provider impact.
- 3.3 Finally, the level of financial support required for the maintained schools is currently in excess of the overall de-delegation, with in year (2023/2024) forecast overspends of £180k for Maternity / Paternity support and £125k for trade union contributions.
- 3.4 Taking all these factors into account, it is proposed that the de-delegated rates for 2024/2025 are increased by a minimum of 11% with the exception of maternity/paternity contributions that is proposed to be increased by a minimum of 33%. These would equate to the following per pupil charges in 2024/2025:

De-Delegation Description	Primary per pupil rate 2023/2024	Proposed Primary per pupil rate 2024/2025	Secondary per pupil rate 2023/2024	Proposed Secondary per pupil rate 2024/2025
School Contingency	£11.37	£12.62	£14.25	£15.82
Voluntary Early Retirement (VER)	£2.58	£2.86	£3.23	£3.59
Free school meals eligibility checks	£1.08	£1.20	£1.35	£1.50
Maternity, paternity, and adoptive leave	£30.79	£40.95	£30.79	£40.95
Trade union facilities time	£6.01	£6.67	£0.00	£0.00
Public duties	£0.17	£0.19	£0.21	£0.23
International new arrivals	£1.66	£1.84	£2.08	£2.31
School Improvement Commissioning	£4.73	£5.25	£12.61	£14.00
TOTALS	£58.39	£71.58	£64.52	£78.40

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3.5 The proposed de-delegated rates have been circulated to all maintained schools as part of the annual consultation / engagement process. The deadline for responses is 31st November, with the outcome from the process to be shared with Schools forum members on 1st December 2023.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Schools forum (maintained schools representatives only) members are recommended to approve the above proposed revised allocations in de-delegated rates for the 2024/2025 financial year.

David Baxter
Finance Manager
22nd November 2023