

SCHOOLS FORUM

De-delegation for School Improvement Proposal

Tuesday, 13th February 2024

Content Applicable to:		School Phase:	
Maintained Primary	X	Pre School	
Academies		Foundation Stage	X
PVI Settings		Primary	X
Special Schools / Academies		Secondary	
Local Authority	X	Post 16	
		High Needs	

Content Requires:		By:	
Noting		Maintained Primary School Members	X
Decision	X	Maintained Secondary School Members	
		Maintained Special School Members	
		Academy Members	
		All Schools Forum	

1. **Purpose of Report:**

This report presents the consultation response on the proposal for de-delegation of funding for school improvement functions for Local Authority maintained schools.

2. **Recommendations:**

The Schools Forum representatives for maintained schools are recommended to approve:

To continue the de-delegation for Local Authority school improvement functions for maintained schools in 2024/25 at a rate of £18 per pupil.

3. **Background** (details in **Appendix A**):

The DfE implemented a policy to reduce the LA level School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant by 50% from financial year 2022/23 and to remove it entirely for 2023/24. Instead, it is using the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2022 to allow LAs to de-delegate funding from maintained school

budget shares with the approval of the Schools Forum maintained school representatives or by agreement of the Secretary of State.

If no de-delegation of funding is agreed the capacity of the Local Authority to support maintained schools in a systematic and strategic way would be significantly at risk.

No alternative funding stream is available to support this work; therefore, the implications of not continuing would potentially leave schools isolated and solely dependent on the capacity of local leadership and governance. Whilst some higher performing schools may benefit financially in the short term, this approach would conflict with both national policy (for schools to be within strong groups) and local experience (that a proactive approach to school improvement ultimately achieves better outcomes for children alongside better long-term value for money).

Leicestershire Schools' Forum agreed de-delegation for 2023/24 at its meeting on [14 February 2023](#).

4. Consultation:

A consultation was undertaken with maintained schools over a four-week period. Details of the consultation are shown in Appendix 1.

The results show that of 61 schools who responded:

- 54 strongly agree or tend to agree “that they understand the impact on the Local Authority core offer for maintained schools resulting from this proposal”.
- 37 strongly agree or tend to agree that the core offer represents value for money, 14 neither agree nor disagree, 9 disagree and 1 did not know the answer to this question.
- For question 8, Do you support the proposal of a £18 per pupil de-delegation to deliver the Local Authority’s core school improvement functions for maintained schools for 2024/25? 50 (83%) respondents agreed, 3 (5%) expressed that they don’t know, 7 (12%) disagreed and 1 omitted a response.

This shows unanimous support for the proposal. Comments received suggest the offer is appropriate and meeting the needs of schools. There was a theme reflecting the financial challenges felt in schools at this time.

The full consultation results are shown in **Appendix B**.

5. Resource Implications:

No additional resource implications identified.

6. Equal Opportunity Issues:

None identified.

7. Background Papers:

[Leicestershire Schools' Forum | 14 February 2023](#)

8. Officers to Contact:

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