

APPENDIX A**Consultation on the De-delegation* of funding to deliver Local Authority School Improvement Functions**

**De-delegation effectively means the retention of part of a school budget by the LA before the total is calculated*

Introduction:

1. On 11 January 2022 the DfE published the outcome of their consultation on reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded. Since 2017, the Local Authority School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering grant has been allocated to local authorities to support them in fulfilling their statutory school improvement functions under Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and their additional school improvement expectations as set out in the Schools Causing Concern (SCC) guidance (collectively referred to as core school improvement activities). In summary, these activities require councils to monitor performance of maintained schools, broker school improvement provision, and intervene as appropriate.
2. As a result of the consultation the LA level School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant was reduce by 50% from financial year 2022/23 and will be removed entirely from 2023/24. Instead, the Schools and Early Years Finance Regulations 2022 will allow LAs to de-delegate funding from maintained school budget shares with the approval of the Schools Forum maintained school representatives.
3. In recent years Leicestershire has received the following amounts:
 - 2019/20 £330,371
 - 2020/21 £339,189
 - 2021/22 £314,887
 - 2022/23 £139,000
 - 2023/24 and onwards £0
4. It was agreed by Schools Forum on March 23, 2022, that £9 per pupils be de-delegated from maintained school budgets in 2022/23 to deliver the local authority's core school improvement functions.
5. It was agreed by Schools Forum on February 14, 2023, that £18 per pupils be de-delegated from maintained school budgets in 2023/24 to deliver the local authority's core school improvement functions.
6. To maintain the status quo, it was proposed the offer be extended into following years when there would need to be an ongoing de-delegation of £18 per pupil to cover the same level of per pupil funding.
7. De-delegation can only be approved on an annual basis.

Statutory School Improvement Functions for the Local Authority:

8. Local Authorities have statutory school improvement functions under [Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) and additional school improvement expectations as set out in the [Schools Causing Concern \(SCC\) guidance](#) (collectively referred to as core school improvement activities). In summary, these activities require councils to monitor performance of maintained schools, broker school improvement provision, and intervene as appropriate.

The Use of this funding in Leicestershire:

9. This funding is used to fulfil Leicestershire Local Authority statutory responsibilities around maintained schools including:
- An Education Effectiveness Partner linked to each school developing a relationship between the school and LA offering advocacy and oversight: a watchful eye and critical friend giving support and somewhere to go in challenging times; ad hoc responses and signposting; knowledge of the position of schools and when/if intervention is needed.
 - The Education Effectiveness Partner closely monitor standards in maintained schools and report on standards in maintained schools to the senior leaders of the school, the governing board of the school, the local authority and where appropriate, the diocese through notes of visit.
 - The Education Effectiveness Partner identify and evaluate risk of ‘causing concern’ or ‘eligible for intervention’, as defined in Schools Causing Concern, Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Education and Adoption Act 2016.
 - Commissioned health checks and audits as appropriate; support in preparation for, and response to, inspection.
 - Development support around safeguarding, financial planning and governance, and support with working with a range of linked LA and wider services.
 - Partnership development to support collaborative groups to become self-supporting, sustainable, and robust “strong families of schools”.
 - Funding to support core improvement activities and formal intervention overlaps with wider improvement provision.
10. Maintaining this service and engagement with schools strengthens the ability of the Education Effectiveness Team to add value to all schools and academies through its universal offer, funded via County Council funding, (Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership strategic improvement activities, communications, advocacy for schools and signposting) and insight into the education sector in Leicestershire.
11. The additional improvement function for LA maintained schools currently includes the following:
- a) Partnership working with a dedicated Education Effectiveness Partner (EEP), providing a single point of contact, help & advice, support & signposting (local authority, localised and Hubs), advocacy and confidential conversations.

- b) Support for the development of local collaborative families of schools including support and development of a Collaborative Committee for maintained schools and academy members.
 - c) A rolling programme of independent checks and audits to provide external validation, confirmation and feedback including:
 - i. Health-check (evaluation quality of teaching and learning)
 - ii. Safeguarding audit
 - iii. Pupil Premium review
 - iv. SEND review
 - v. External Review of Governance
 - vi. Website audit
 - d) Next Steps support with the above points, in partnership with school leaders. The EEP will discuss how best to support whether this is through commissioned input, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or other additional support.
 - e) Development and support of Governing Boards, in partnership with the Governor Support and Development service.
 - f) Support and development of safeguarding arrangements post inspection, audit or new headteacher one-to-one visit.
 - g) Support in advance of, during and after OFSTED inspection.
 - h) The EEP will track any commissioned support to ensure the timeliness and quality, ensuring it meets the desired outcomes.
 - i) The EEP can commission specialised audits for HR and Finance.
 - j) Centralised fully funded CPD opportunities in targeted areas, recent examples include: KS2 Reading Comprehension, Talk for Writing, Preparing for Ofsted and SEF/ SDP Best Practice, Inspection Skills training as well as accessing other external funded CPD opportunities, e.g., development of curriculum leadership.
 - k) Commissioned School Improvement Partner (SIP) support, mentoring and/or targeted peer support with a school improvement consultant.
 - l) Financial support with evidenced-based research projects in schools.
 - m) A range of regular communications including meetings, seminars, and webinars.
 - n) Full day local authority induction for new headteachers plus an onsite safeguarding visit for all new to headship headteachers from LCC Safeguarding and Compliance.
 - o) Access to LCC online training tools as a resource for leadership and staff development – where appropriate (release for 2024-25).
12. It is proposed that the additional improvement function continues to be delivered through the de-delegation.
13. The Education Effectiveness Team engages with and supports all schools and education settings in Leicestershire through strategic planning and partnership (including the Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership (which acts as a hub for this activity); managing communications such as the headteacher briefing, social media and meetings with headteachers; and fulfilling statutory duties around

safeguarding, moderation, and SACRE. The team identifies opportunities to make appropriate connections for the benefit of children in Leicestershire. This activity is funded separately, and alongside the de-delegated funded activities for maintained schools. This proposal sets out the proposed use of the de-delegated funding from maintained schools.

School Improvement Budget 2024/25:

14. The regulations allow for LAs to deduct the funding from maintained schools budget shares as an Education Function for services relating to maintained schools only in much the same way as for de-delegated services if approved by the Schools Forum. If the maintained schools' School Forum representatives agree that this funding can be deducted from school budget shares, £18 per pupil will be de-delegated in 2024/25.
15. It should be noted that if the Schools Forum maintained schools' representatives do not approve to de-delegate funds for this function that the Secretary of State retains the power to approve the de-delegation contrary to the decision of the Schools Forum if it is deemed necessary to ensure that the local authority is adequately funded to exercise its core school improvement functions and a decision is requested by the Local Authority.

Consultation Questions:**Consultation on De-delegation of Funding for School Improvement in Maintained Schools.**

Q1. Which area is your school located?

Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley & Bosworth, Melton, North-West Leicestershire, Oadby & Wigston

Q2. Please provide the following details:

School name: DfE number:

Q3. In what role are you responding to this survey?

Headteacher, Chair of Governors, Other (please specify) Please specify 'Other':

Q4. The DfE no longer allocates funding for school improvement and monitoring to local authorities in the form of a grant. It is expected this should instead be funded through the de-delegation of funds from the maintained school budget share with the approval of their Schools Forum maintained schools' representatives.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I understand the impact of this proposal on the Local Authority Core and Additional Improvement Function offers for maintained schools."

Strongly agree, Tend to agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Tend to disagree, Strongly disagree, Don't know

Comment

Q5. Do you agree that the comprehensive Additional Improvement Function offer (described in the introduction) represents value for money?

Strongly agree, Tend to agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Tend to disagree, Strongly disagree, Don't know

Comment

Q6. How likely, if at all, is your school to access the following areas of the Local Authority's Additional Improvement Function offer?

The LCC Additional Improvement Function Offer for maintained schools includes:

	Very likely, Fairly likely, Not very likely, Not at all, likely, Don't know
Partnership working with a dedicated Education Effectiveness Partner (EEP)	
Support for the development of local collaborative families of schools	
Participation through a Collaborative Committee for maintained and academy members schools	

<p>The rolling programme of independent checks and audits to provide external validation, confirmation and feedback (including a health-checks and evaluation, safeguarding audit, Pupil Premium review, SEND review, External Review of Governance and Website Audit)</p>	
<p>Next steps support with recommendations from the check and audits, from support commissioned in partnership between school leaders and their EEP and brokered by the LA</p>	
<p>Development and support of Governing Boards, in partnership with the Governor Support and Development service</p>	
<p>Support in advance of, during and after OFSTED inspection.</p>	
<p>Commissioned specialised audits for HR and Finance</p>	
<p>Fully funded centralised CPD opportunities (recent examples include: KS2 Reading Comprehension, Talk for Writing, Preparing for Ofsted and SEF/ SDP Best Practice, Inspection Skills training as well as accessing other external funded CPD opportunities, e.g., Curriculum training)</p>	
<p>Commissioned School Improvement Partner (SIP) support, mentoring and/ or targeted peer support</p>	
<p>Funding support with evidenced-based research projects in schools</p>	
<p>A range of regular communications, including the headteacher bulletin</p>	
<p>Full day local authority induction for new headteachers and mentoring, plus an onsite safeguarding visit for all new to headship headteachers from LCC Safeguarding and Compliance</p>	
<p>Regular meetings, seminars and webinars provided by the LA and associated partners</p>	
<p>Access to LCC online training tools as a resource for managers and staff development – where appropriate (for 2024-25)</p>	

Q7. What, if anything, else should we consider as part of our Additional Improvement Function offer?

Q8. Do you support the proposal of a £18 per pupil de-delegation to deliver the Local Authority's Additional Improvement Function and Core school improvement functions for maintained schools for 2024/25?

Yes, No, Don't know

Why do you say this?

Q9. Do you understand that the final decision around the de-delegation of funding to support these functions is retained by the Secretary of State for Education?

Yes, No, Don't know

Why do you say this?

Q10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

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