

## Report to the Schools Forum 25 November 2016

### Proposed De-delegation from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for financial year 2017/18

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the revised funding arrangements for schools which took effect from April 2013, DSG is split into 3 notional blocks: Schools; Early Years and High Needs. Any DSG that is held back from the Schools Block and that is not funding unavoidable historical commitments, has to be agreed with the Schools Forum.
- 1.2 The nature of the agreement depends upon how the DfE have classified the areas of expenditure in their regulations. As there are no DSG commitments in T&W that fall within the definition of historical commitments, this leaves two main areas:
- Funds which with the agreement of the Schools Forum, voting as a single body, can be retained centrally prior to the calculation of delegated budgets. Approval is required for the amount on each budget line. Separate paper covers these elements.
  - Funds which will have to be delegated to schools but can be de-delegated from mainstream maintained schools with the agreement of the representatives of each phase on the Schools Forum.
- 1.3 De-delegation decisions therefore do not apply to academies, special schools or PRUs. Voting is as follows:
- maintained primary school representatives, for maintained primary de-delegations;
  - maintained secondary school representatives, for maintained secondary de-delegations.
- 1.4 In 2016/17 de-delegation was only agreed for one service, free school meal eligibility checking, by representatives of maintained primary schools.

#### 2 Proposed de-delegation for 2017/18

- 2.1 The following de-delegation is proposed for maintained schools for 2017/18.

Service	Basis of de-delegation	Estimated Total
Free school meals eligibility	£8.50 for each pupil eligible for free school meals, on October 2016 census	£25,000

- 2.2 The amount per pupil is proposed to be the same for primary and secondary schools as there is no difference in the work carried out.
- 2.3 To put these requests into context the 2016/17 benchmarking data was as follows:

England overall	Con-tingencies	Behaviour support services	Support to UPEG and bilingual learners	Free school meals eligibility	Insurance	Museum and Library services	Licences & subscriptions	Staff costs supply cover	Staff costs – supply cover for facility time	Total De-delegated
<b>Mean</b>	£9	£6	£5	£1	£2	£0	£2	£6	£2	<b>£34</b>
<b>Median</b>	£6	£1	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2	<b>£10</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	£114	£68	£59	£6	£46	£11	£28	£33	£13	<b>£135</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	<b>£0</b>
<b>T&amp;W</b>	£0	£0	£0	£1	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	<b>£1</b>

- 2.4 Not surprisingly T&W's level of de-delegation, with only one relatively small service being included, is low compared to other LAs.
- 2.5 In terms of the service provided, T&W's benefits team process the applications for Free School Meals (FSM). Claimants who receive some tax credits, certain benefits or who are asylum seekers complete an application for free school meals for their children and their entitlement is assessed by the benefits team using the government's Eligibility Checking Service. Entitlement is reassessed at regular intervals.
- 2.6 In order to avoid schools having to make individual arrangements for this process to be completed, **it is proposed that maintained primary schools de-delegate a sum of £8.50 per pupil eligible for free school meals at the October 2016 census.** This would result in around £25,000 being de-delegated.
- 2.7 Any institutions that are not part of de-delegation or agreed contribution arrangements will be charged for free school meal assessments.

Tim Davis  
Finance Team Leader  
November 2016