

## Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

**Report to:** Schools Forum

**Subject:** De-delegated Budgets 2023/24

**Report of:** Directorate Finance Lead – Education and Schools

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### Summary

De-delegation is an option that enables some services to maintained schools to be provided centrally, and the funding to do so is retained by the local authority (LA). If de-delegation stops, then the centrally retained funding would be delegated in the main school budget and the local authority would either stop providing or would charge for the service.

The “de-delegation” approach means that the deductions occur after the funding formula has been applied and individual schools can see the cost of each element in their budget share.

The purpose of the report is to seek permissions from maintained School Forum representatives on the 2023/24 de-delegation, for the deduction of education services grant duties and trade union facilities.

The Council has managed the loss of the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (SIMBG) and is not looking to increase de-delegation 2023/24 to cover the loss of this grant.

### Recommendations

In accordance with Schools Forum powers, maintained schools’ representatives are asked to approve de-delegation for the following:

- Trade Union Duties: £196k which at current pupil levels equates to £5.37 per school aged pupil (section 2).
  - Education Services Grant General Duties: £0.5m which at current pupil levels equates to £13.70 per school aged pupil (section 3).
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### Contact Officers:

Name: Anne Summerfield  
Position: Directorate Lead Education and Schools Finance  
Telephone: 0161 234 1463  
E-mail: [anne.summerfield@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:anne.summerfield@manchester.gov.uk)

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### Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy, please

contact one of the contact officers above.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Schools Finance Regulations sets out that certain amounts can be deducted from maintained school budgets with the approval of the sector representative at Schools Forum. Most of the items concerned were previously centrally top-sliced so that the funding was not included in the total available for distribution by formula. The “de-delegation” approach means that the deductions occur after the funding formula has run and individual schools can see the cost of each element in their budget share.
- 1.2. In line with Schools Finance Regulations, the Local Authority (LA) is seeking Forum (maintained school representatives only) approval to the proposed schools block de-delegation of budgets 2023/24, in respect of maintained primary and secondary schools only:
  - Trade Union Facility £196k
  - Education Services General Duties (ESG) £0.5m

## 2. Trade Union Facility Arrangements

- 2.1. Facilities time is provided for specific Trade Unions representatives to represent staff in other schools and academies where required, and cover for these representatives are reimbursed to the employing school through this budget. This covers the support of staff at all levels of seniority and includes representatives for a range of teaching and support staff from Trade Unions. Based on current academy conversions and pupil numbers based on May 2022 census, this equates to a de-delegated budget of £196k, which is approximately £5.37 per pupil. This is a reduction of 2p per pupil compared to previous financial year at £5.39 per pupil. Although salary cost and union recharge have increased there has been a change in the number of union representatives supporting this service, which has contributed to the slight reduction on per pupil rate. These provisional figures will be re-worked once the October 2022 census data is available and reported to Schools Forum in January 2023.
- 2.2. The Union also offers this service on a traded basis to academies, special and nursery schools, at the same rate as maintained schools. Currently fifty-five academies (79%), all sixteen special schools, and both nursery schools purchase this SLA. There has been an increase in the take-up of the traded offer since 2019/20, which has enabled the rate to be maintained below the 2019/20 rate of £6.14 per pupil.
- 2.3. Schools’ Forum members representing maintained schools are asked to approve the de-delegation of the Trade Union budget 2023/24.

## 3 Education Services General (ESG) Duties for Maintained Schools

- 3.1. It is proposed that £0.5m is held by the LA to cover statutory general duties which were previously covered through general element of education services grant. Table one below provides an outline of the contribution to current general rate ESG funded budgets. Based on current academy conversions and estimated pupil numbers, this equates to a budget of £0.5m, which is approximately £13.70 per pupil, subject to October 2022 census confirmation.

- 3.2. The approximate £13.70 per pupil 2023/24 is a small increase of 3p per pupil compared with 2022/23 rate of £13.67 per pupil. This per pupil increase is due to the slight drop in maintained school's pupil numbers, the rate per pupil will be updated once October 2022 census data is available and reported to School Forum.

**Table one: Former Education Services grant (ESG) duties**

<b>General former ESG Duties</b>	<b>£000</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b> advice to maintained schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition/organisation of staff, determination of conditions of service for nonteaching staff, appointment or dismissal of employee function	61	Contribution to cost of Schools Humans Resources Manager post.
<b>Governor Support</b> Advice to maintained schools around appointment of governors	68	Contribution to Governor Support Team (Not funded from other sources of education funding)
<b>Quality Assurance</b> To monitor performance of maintained schools, broker school improvement provision, and intervene as appropriate.	321	Contribution to cost of six School Senior Quality Assurance (SSQA) posts. Plus supports the moderation of assessments for National Curriculum monitoring.
<b>Asset Management</b> General landlord duties for all maintained schools. General health and safety duty as an employer for employees and others who may be affected (Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974).	50	Contribution to cost of Asset Management post.
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	

- 3.4. Schools' Forum members representing maintained schools are asked to approve the de-delegation of the ESG budget 2023/24.

#### 4 **School Improvement Monitoring & Brokerage Grant (SIMG)**

- 4.1. School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (SIMBG) will cease from 2023/24, as reported to School Forum June 2022. A number of local authorities are following DfE advice, that this is funded by de-delegation from mainstream schools, Manchester will not be including this in the de-delegation 2023/24. The Council use the grant to fund quality assurance professional (QAP), the offer is a universal offer for all Manchester schools and provides an overview of majority of schools in City and supports the Council to implement its statutory duties in relation to: Special Education Needs (SEND), attendance and education of vulnerable pupils. Consequently, these aspects will continue to be funded via Council budget which means there is not a proposal to delegate from maintained school budgets.

## 5. **Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 5.1. In accordance with Schools Forum powers, maintained schools' representatives are asked to approve de-delegation for the following:
- Trade Union Duties: £196k which at current pupil levels equates to £5.37 per school aged pupil (section 2).
  - Education Services Grant General Duties: £0.5m which at current pupil levels equates to £13.70 per school aged pupil (section 3).