

**-Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Schools Forum

Subject: De-delegated Budgets 2024/25

Report of: Directorate Finance Lead – Education and Schools

Summary

The purpose of the report is to seek permissions from maintained School Forum representatives on the 2024/25 de-delegation, for the deduction of Education Services Grant (ESG) duties and trade union facilities.

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 Council. 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.

Recommendations

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

- Trade Union Duties: £203k which at current pupil levels equates to £5.98 per school aged pupil (section 2).
 - Education Services Grant (ESG) General Duties: £0.5m which at current pupil levels equates to £14.75 per school aged pupil (section 3).
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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 2024/25, in respect of maintained primary and secondary schools only:
 - Trade Union Facility £203k
 - 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 2023 census, this equates to a de-delegated budget of £203k, which is approximately **£5.98 per pupil**. This is an increase of 57p per pupil compared to previous financial year at £5.41 per pupil, owing to the increased salary costs and union recharges of representatives supporting this service following pay award agreements. These provisional figures will be re-worked once the October 2023 census data is available and reported to Schools Forum in January 2024.
- 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 66 academies (90%), 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 2024/25.

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 **£14.75 per pupil**, subject to October 2023 census confirmation.
- 3.2 The approximate £14.75 per pupil 2024/25 is an increase of 55p per pupil compared with 2023/24 rate of £14.19 per pupil. This per pupil increase is due to school

academisations which represent a 6.32% drop in maintained schools' pupil numbers. The rate per pupil will be updated once October 2023 census data is available and reported to School Forum.

Table one: Former Education Services grant (ESG) duties

General former ESG Duties	£000	
Human Resources 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.
Governor Support Advice to maintained schools around appointment of governors	68	Contribution to Governor Support Team (Not funded from other sources of education funding)
Quality Assurance 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.
Asset Management 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.
Total	500	

3.4 Schools' Forum members representing maintained schools are asked to approve the de-delegation of the ESG budget 2024/25.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

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

- Trade Union Duties: £203k which at current pupil levels equates to £5.98 per school aged pupil (section 2).
- Education Services Grant General Duties: £0.5m which at current pupil levels equates to £14.75 per school aged pupil (section 3).