

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: NEW DELEGATIONS – SCHOOLS BLOCK
DATE: 12th JANUARY 2012
RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS' FORUM

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. This paper looks at the services currently held centrally within the schools block and considers the delegation and de-delegation of those services.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

2. It was proposed and accepted at the Schools Forum in July and October that several budget items which can currently be retained centrally should continue to be held centrally in 2013-14:

Funding for growth – can be centrally retained

- Primary Review Growth Fund – (Proposal on today's agenda)

Central expenditure – can be centrally retained

- Admissions function (£422,161)
- Carbon Reduction Commitment (£160,000)
- Family and Parenting Practitioners (£426,800)
- Preventative Social Care Workers (£200,000)

Contingencies – has to be allocated through the formula but can be de-delegated for maintained schools

- Support for schools in financial difficulties (£370,000)
- Liability insurances (£242,300)
- Staff costs - supply cover for trade union and public duties (£58,000)

3. Further analysis of the effect of delegation and de-delegation of contingency budgets has shown that where we delegate the whole of the budget to all schools including Academies based on numbers on roll, we can only de-delegate from maintained schools. This means that there is a shortfall in the funding required for some central services.

4. Liability Insurance

The employee's liability insurance charge is calculated on the number of employees based at maintained schools. It does not cover Academies who arrange their own insurance. Under the new regulations, the budget has to be delegated to all schools, including academies. However, only maintained schools can de-delegate the funding to a central budget leaving a shortfall as highlighted in table 1.

5. Trade Union Duties

The same situation will arise for Trade Union Facilities. A contingency can only be held for maintained schools. However the trade union reps whose costs are reimbursed from the fund may be employed by an Academy. Academies could elect to pay into the central fund but could also chose to opt out, whereas maintained schools would not have the choice.

6. **Table 1**

Central Service	Total Delegated Budget	Total NOR	Per Pupil	Maintained NOR	Total De-Delegated	Variance	Funding Required Per Pupil
Insurance Services	£239,389	26,265	£9.11	23,483	£214,033	(£25,356)	£10.19
Trade Unions Facilities	£57,303	26,265	£2.18	23,483	£51,233	(£6,070)	£2.44

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- Funding for employee liability insurance is delegated to all schools. A Service Level Agreement will be issued for those schools or academies wishing to buy back into the service.
- The Trade Union Facilities budget is delegated to all schools.
- The Forum considers how they wish to fund trade union rep time in the future. Options include a fund held by a nominated school, or an SLA administered by the local authority, including an admin fee.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

None

Further Information Available From:

Name: Chris Tombs

Tel: 023 8083 3785

E-mail: Chris.tombs@southampton.gov.uk