

Hillingdon Schools Forum  
De-delegation Changes 2023-24

Date of meeting:	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
Time of meeting:	1.00 pm
Venue:	Teams
Officer presenting the report:	Coral Miller

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report outlines the 3 items proposed for 2023/24 to be de-delegated by the Maintained Schools to the Local authority and seeks approval by those members to support the Local Authority accordingly.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 Schools Forum is invited to:
- a) Agree to the introduction of a new de-delegated service area, for school improvement activities, following the cessation of the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant.
  - b) Agree the 2 items that were de-delegation in 2022/23.

**3 Background**

- 3.1 The Department for Education (DfE) requires Schools Forum to review the de-delegated items each year and undertake a vote on whether to delegate or retain centrally. The voting is limited to maintained schools, with each sector (primary and secondary) having a separate vote. Academy schools are excluded as they will receive the funding through the delegated budget.

**3.2 Trade Union duties staff supply cover**

Previously Schools Forum has agreed to delegate the retained budget for Trade Union duties staff supply cover costs. The proposal is that the funding for this continues to be de-delegated in 2023/24. The financial impact of this is £2.19 per pupil (in line with previous years).

If the trade union facilities arrangements are not managed through de-delegation, then schools would need to make local plans to cover the costs of trade union facilities directly from their budgets. The benefits of de-delegation are that it is a more efficient and cost-effective way of managing facilities time with schools able to pool resources to cover the cost in a way that avoids costs falling unpredictably or unevenly across schools.

**3.3 Teacher Pensions Administration**

Following the removal of the Education Services Grant (ESG), local authorities needed to agree with maintained schools whether they wished funding to be retained to fund the continuation of education services previously funded by the ESG, with the mechanism for this being through de-delegation.

In previous years, the only function that Schools Forum has voted to de-delegate Teachers Pensions administration and the proposal is that this continues for 2023/24. The financial impact of this is £1.27 per pupil which reflects a contribution to the cost of the post responsible for the maintenance and reconciliation of Teachers Pensions payments, the identification and follow-up of any queries with schools and payroll providers and the payment of deductions to the Teachers Pensions Agency.

Should the proposal to de-delegate for Teacher Pensions administration not be agreed by Schools Forum, schools will be required to deal with any queries that the Council receives from Teachers' Pensions, as the Council will no longer be able to liaise directly with the Payroll provider.

### **3.4 School Improvement**

From 2023 to 2024, the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant will cease and no longer be paid to local authorities. The loss of this funding, which was £198,000 in 21/22 and then reduced by 50% in 22/23, jeopardizes the viability of the service.

To ensure that councils remain adequately funded to exercise their statutory intervention powers the proposal is to give councils the power in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations to fund all school improvement activities, including core school improvement activities, via de-delegation of funds from maintained schools' budget shares, with the agreement of their local Schools Forum or the Secretary of State.

### **New De-Delegation consideration**

A paper will be produced and presented to Schools Forum in December 2022, with more details on the function and benefits of this service and the contribution that will be sought.