**AGENDA ITEM 4**

Title of report: De Delegation Service Review

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**Details on who has been consulted with on this paper to date: Kay Goodacre**

**Executive Summary**

This report sets out a review of the de delegated services during the financial year 2021-22, in advance of a decision for the 2023-24 funding year

**Details of recommendations and timescales for decisions:**

Schools Forum is asked to:

1. note the contents of this report

**1. Background**

* 1. At budget setting time each year, Schools Forum will be asked to approve the de-delegation of funding for centrally provided support in the following areas.
* School Specific Contingency
* Free School Meal Eligibility Assessment
* Trade Union Facilities
* Behaviour Support and Anti-bullying
* Additional School Improvement (de-delegated from 2022-23)
	1. De-delegation will be based on a per pupil formula, which is considered to be a fair way of accounting for the size of the school and its budget.
	2. As set out elsewhere in the agenda, the 2023-24 National Funding Formula will attract an increase in pupil-led funding of 0.5% per pupil based on 2022-23 settlement plus the Supplementary Grant.
	3. For each item we have provided figures on the overall final expenditure in 2021/22 and the per pupil rate.
1. **Schools Specific Contingency (not growth)**

Amount De Delegated: **£444.23k**

Per Pupil Rate: **£15.50**

The table below shows the actual expenditure and what was funded by this money:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount (£k)** |
| **Schools Block Contingencies’ Include:**i. Exceptional unforeseen costs which it would be unreasonable to expect governing bodies to meetii. Schools in financial difficultyiii. Additional costs relating to reorganised or closing schools.iv. Funding for Schools HR project | 491.473 |

***What is provided and reason for de delegation***

The contingency fund provides for unforeseen expenses in schools during the year. Without a central fund, individual schools facing an unforeseen significant cost may find themselves unable to operate within their delegated budgets. Individual schools may not by themselves be able to build up sufficient contingency to cover this.

1. **Free School Meal Eligibility Assessment**

Amount De Delegated: **£114.64k**

Per Pupil Rate: **£4.00**

The table below shows the actual expenditure and what was funded by this money:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount (£k)** |
| SLA with the Council’s Housing Benefit Service  | 108.046 |

***What is provided and reason for de delegation***

The service assesses pupils’ eligibility for free school meals and notifies individual schools on a regular basis of their pupils’ eligibility.

Providing this service centrally means that efficiencies can be gained. Administration at individual school level would be burdensome as entitlement checking would have to be done manually. The service also conducts campaigns on behalf of schools, resulting in increased take up.

1. **Trade Union Facilities**

Amount De Delegated: **£146.17k**

Per Pupil Rate: **£5.10**

The table below shows the actual expenditure and what was funded by this money:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount (£k)** |
| Backfill cover for Trade Union (TU) Facilities Agreement including £45k prior years backdated claims | 210.554 |

***What is provided and reason for de delegation***

The TU Facilities Agreement ensures that representatives are available to enable Schools to participate in collective bargaining and consultation processes. By accompanying staff to formal meetings enables Schools to progress formal actions under HR Procedures.

Holding the budget centrally enables schools to share the costs of supply cover to support the TU facilities time agreement and ensures that individual

schools who employ TU reps are not disadvantaged.

1. **Behaviour Support Services**

Amount De Delegated: **£152.22k**

Per Pupil Rate: **£4.29 Primary**

 **£7.38 Secondary**

The outcome of this service is reported elsewhere on the agenda.

1. **Additional School Improvement**

In addition to the existing de-delegated budgets, Schools Forum agreed from 2022-23 to the additional de-delegation of the School Improvement Service following the phasing out of the Schools Moderation and Brokering grant.

This grant is allocated to local authorities to allow them to monitor and support performance of maintained schools, broker school improvement provision and provide intervention to raise standards. This funding will be fully passported to THEP.