

**Report to Hartlepool Schools' Forum 23rd October 2013  
From Dean Jackson Assistant Director – Education**

**Agenda Item 4 – De-Delegated Services and DSG ‘Schools Block’- Funded  
LA Services**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report identifies those services currently provided to, or on behalf of schools by the LA which are funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
- 1.2 These services consist of the Centrally Retained Services (which can be retained centrally before allocating the formula with agreement of the Schools Forum) and those services which are funded by maintained schools de-delegating the funding to the LA.
- 1.3 The report provides details of the services that are Centrally Retained and which are subject to a limitation of no new commitments or increases in expenditure from 2013/14 levels. Schools Forum approval is required to confirm the amounts on each line.
- 1.4 The services funded by de-delegation are also identified and Forum members are asked to consider the continued de-delegation of this funding in 2014/15. Only the maintained schools by sector (ie. Primary and Secondary) can decide to de-delegate however academies have the option to buy-back these services.
- 1.5 A decision is required at this meeting as depending on the outcome there may be implications for the LA which will require time to implement. This decision requires the Primary and Secondary sector *school* members to vote by sector on each of the proposals.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Under the new schools funding regulations introduced in 2013/14 a number of services historically provided by LA's became subject to new requirements.
- 2.2 The changes separated the services previously centrally provided within the Schools Block into three separate areas:-
  - Statutory functions of the authority which cannot be delegated and so these must be centrally funded

- Historic commitments to use the Schools Budget to fund costs which could be met from general local authority funding eg. combined services
- Where maintained schools agree that a service should be centrally funded because this provides better value for money or pools risk

2.3 The 2014/15 guidance allows the services that met the criteria of the first two areas in paragraph 2.2 to be centrally retained before allocating the formula but with no new commitments or increases in expenditure from 2013/14. Schools Forum approval is required to confirm the amounts on each line. These services and proposed budgets are identified in Section 3 of this Report.

2.4 Section 4 identifies those services subject to de-delegation. These services were delegated to schools in the first instance, but if maintained schools in a phase collectively agreed – through the Schools Forum – they could continue to be provided centrally by returning / de-delegating funding to the LA. The final delegated budget available to each school then excluded these amounts.

2.5 Academies could not de-delegate this funding but could ‘purchase’ the services under a ‘buy-back’-type arrangement.

### 3. Centrally Retained Services

3.1 Table 1 below identifies the central services provided to all schools by the LA. The 2014/15 proposed budget levels are retained at the same levels as 2012/13 and 2013/14 ie. a ‘cash freeze’ has been applied.

#### 3.2 Table 1 – 2014/15 Proposed Central Services Budgets

	2014/15 Proposed Budget
	£m
Admissions	0.131
Servicing of Schools Forum	0.035
Contribution to Combined Budgets (including Space to Learn, School Meals & Vulnerable Children)	0.606
Capital expenditure funded from revenue	0.628
Termination of Employment Costs (Brierton)	0.031
Carbon Reduction Commitment	0.095
	<b>1.526</b>

# The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) announced last year that schools will be withdrawn from the carbon reduction credits (CRC) scheme from April 2014. The DfE will make an adjustment to DSG at that time to

recognise the reduction in costs therefore it is expected the Carbon Reduction Funding will be transferred back to the DfE.

#### **4. De-Delegated Services**

- 4.1 The following services were subject to de-delegation in 2013/14. Forum members are again asked whether they want to de-delegate this funding back to the LA in 2014/15.
- 4.2 The de-delegation rates shown are indicative only as they are based on October 2012 pupil numbers. Actual de-delegation rates will be based on October 2013 pupil numbers.

#### **Licences - £0.066m**

- 4.3 These relate to the SIMS software licences purchased by the LA on behalf of all maintained schools.
- 4.4 The proposed de-delegation rate in 2014/15 is £5.10 per pupil within the AWPU (£5.10 in 2013/14) for both Primary and Secondary pupils.

#### **Free School Meals Eligibility - £0.022m**

- 4.5 This relates to the work undertaken by the Revenues and Benefits Team within the LA to actively promote and target free school meal eligibility at eligible families and to process all claims. Advertising and press releases are all included.
- 4.6 The proposed de-delegation rate in 2014/15 is £4.45 per FSM6 pupil within the deprivation factor (£4.45 in 2013/14) for both Primary and Secondary pupils.

#### **Trade Union Facility Time - £0.032m**

- 4.7 Trade union representatives are entitled to reasonable paid time off (known as facility time) to take part in trade union duties, such as negotiating with employers and representing members in grievance procedures. This is currently funded from a 'central' budget retained by the LA on behalf of schools.
- 4.8 The following papers which provide additional information for Forum members to assist in their de-delegation decision are attached as the following Appendices:-

- **Appendix A** - ATL, NAHT, NASUWT and NUT Letter to Schools Forum

- **Appendix B** - Results of LGA 'Trade Union Facility Time Survey' March 2013
- **Appendix C** - Review of Trade Union Facility Time in Schools – DfE Consultation Document (ending 25/10/13)
- **Appendix D** - Review of Trade Union Facility Time in Schools – DfE Call for Evidence Response Form

4.9 The proposed de-delegation rate in 2014/15 is £2.50 per pupil within the AWPU (£2.50 in 2013/14) for both Primary and Secondary pupils.

#### **Ethnic Minority Services - £0.044m**

4.10 The funding provides for a part-time dedicated officer employed by the LA and a small budget with which to target funding at relevant schools as and when required during the year.

4.11 The proposed de-delegation rate in 2014/15 is £234.25 per pupil within the English as an Additional Language factor (£234.25 in 2013/14) for both Primary and Secondary pupils.

#### **Behaviour Support Services**

4.12 This service has previously been de-delegated as one budget even though it includes four separate services – Education Psychology, Behaviour Support Services, School Attendance Team and Inclusion Services. As previously requested by Forum the services within 'Behaviour Support Services' are being separately identified and subject to individual de-delegation decisions for 2014/15.

4.13 In addition, a review of these services and the ratio of work undertaken between the primary and secondary sector has been undertaken during 2013/14. Members will recall that the 2013/14 de-delegated rates reflected a significant weighting towards the secondary sector as historically this sector had been the main beneficiary of these services.

4.14 Following this review the weightings proposed for 2014/15 for each element of this area have been revised to more accurately reflect the level of work undertaken on behalf of each sector. This revised weighting is reflected in the proposed revised de-delegation rates.

#### **Education Psychology - £0.092m**

4.15 This service offers consultation and advice, psychological assessments, psychological interventions, delivery of professional development and training and research and evaluation.

4.16 Further details of the service are included at **Appendix E**.

4.17 The proposed de-delegation rates in 2014/15 are:-

Primary - £3.61 per pupil from the AWPU (£1.76 equivalent in 2013/14) and £9.15 per FSM6 pupil within the deprivation factor (£4.45 equivalent in 2013/14)

Secondary - £3.43 per pupil from the AWPU (£6.43 equivalent in 2013/14) and £9.64 per FSM6 pupil within the deprivation factor (£17.90 equivalent in 2013/14)

#### **Behaviour Support Workers - £0.042m**

4.18 This service supports secondary schools in addressing the needs of young people who are disengaged from education, at risk of exclusion and who present with challenging social and emotional needs which have not responded to school intervention. Further details of the service are included at **Appendix F**.

4.19 The proposed de-delegation rates in 2014/15 are:-

Secondary - £3.66 per pupil from the AWPU (£3.66 equivalent in 2013/14) and £10.20 per FSM6 pupil within the deprivation factor (£10.20 equivalent in 2013/14)

#### **School Attendance Team - £0.232m**

4.20 The purpose of the School Attendance Team is to promote and encourage regular, punctual school attendance. The attendance team is responsible for enforcing the law in relation to school attendance and ensuring pupils who are statutory school age attend school regularly. Further details of the service are included at **Appendix G**.

4.21 The proposed de-delegation rates in 2014/15 are:-

Primary - £5.01 per pupil from the AWPU (£3.04 equivalent in 2013/14) and £12.70 per FSM6 pupil within the deprivation factor (£7.70 equivalent in 2013/14)

Secondary - £14.50 per pupil from the AWPU (£17.47 equivalent in 2013/14) and £40.75 per FSM6 pupil within the deprivation factor (£48.67 equivalent in 2013/14)

## **Inclusion - £0.066m**

- 4.22 This service provides a range of advice and support re LAC and vulnerable pupils on an individual school and pupil basis. Further details of the service are included at **Appendix H**.
- 4.23 The proposed de-delegation rates in 2014/15 are:-
- Primary - £0.43 per pupil from the AWPU (£0.87 equivalent in 2013/14) and £1.10 per FSM6 pupil within the deprivation factor (£2.20 equivalent in 2013/14)
- Secondary - £5.56 per pupil from the AWPU (£4.99 equivalent in 2013/14) and £15.62 per FSM6 pupil within the deprivation factor (£13.89 equivalent in 2013/14)
- 4.24 For each of the above services it is for the Schools Forum members in the relevant phase (primary or secondary) to decide whether that service should be provided centrally. The decision would apply to all maintained mainstream schools in that phase and would mean that the funding for these services was removed from the formula before school budgets were issued. There could be different decisions made for each phase.

## **5. Academies**

- 5.1 Academies will continue to receive a share of funding for these services in their delegated budget and would be able to buy-back into these services at a rate equivalent to the level of de-delegation.

**6. Recommendations**

**6.1 Forum Members are asked to agree the value of the central spend on the services identified in Table 1 of this Report for 2014/15, noting that the level has remained unchanged since 2012/13.**

**6.2 Forum Members are asked to decide by sector (by vote if necessary) whether or not they wish to continue to de-delegate funding in 2014/15 for each of the following services:-**

- **Licences**
- **Free School Meal Eligibility**
- **Trade Union Facility Time**
- **Ethnic Minority Services**
- **Education Psychology**
- **Behaviour Support Workers**
- **School Attendance Team**
- **Inclusion**

**6.3 Academy Representatives are asked to give a view on whether there are any services included within de-delegation that they would consider 'buying-back'.**