



**Walsall Council**

**Walsall Children's Services**

**Report to:** Schools Forum

**Date:** 6th November 2012

**Subject:** Maintained Primary Schools De-Delegation

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**Purpose of the report:** The decision on Maintained Primary School De-Delegation is a Schools Forum decision. Walsall Primary Forum has voted to de-delegate all services proposed for de-delegation and this report is to support that decision

**Recommendation:** See final section of report

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 Schools Forum have had previous reports on de-delegation (25 September 2012). The process for potential de-delegation was outlined in that report.

1.2 Walsall Primary Schools have had 2 sessions after the 25 September 2012 to discuss this issue and have made recommendations. These recommendations are reproduced below.

## **2. Further Information**

2.1 Primary Forum has asked for a more structured process if required in 2014/15.

2.2 Secondary schools have had the funding information requested and will make decisions at 4 December 2012.

## **3. Forum Members who are Eligible to Vote**

3.1 Only the following members of Schools Forum are eligible to vote on this issue:

Mr Vlahakis  
Mrs Draper  
Mrs Sheehy  
Mr Brownsword  
Mr Thornton  
Ms Hunt  
Ms Sharratt  
Mr Gee  
Ms Yates  
Mrs Woodcock

3.2 Operational Guidance from DfE states:

### **“Optional de-delegation for maintained schools**

26. There are some services where maintained schools will be able to decide that some funding should be retained centrally rather than delegated. These are:

- Contingencies (including support for schools in financial difficulties and to support basic need pupil growth);
- Free school meals (FSM) eligibility;
- Insurance;
- Licences/subscriptions;
- Staff costs - supply cover (long-term sickness, maternity, trade union and public duties);
- Support for minority ethnic pupils or underachieving groups;
- Behaviour support services;
- Library and museum services

27. For each of these, it would be for the schools forum members in the relevant phase (primary or secondary), to decide whether that service should be retained centrally. The decision would apply to all maintained schools in that phase and would mean that the funding for these services was removed from the formula before school budgets were issued. **Authorities will, therefore, need to discuss with forum members representing maintained schools, whether there are any services in paragraph 26 which the schools wish to be retained centrally.** Academies would of course be free to buy back into local authority services, as is the case for maintained schools where funding remains delegated.

28. **For each service retained centrally, authorities will need to make a clear statement of how the funding is being taken out of the formula** (for example – primary insurance £20 per pupil, secondary behaviour support services £30 per FSM pupil). There should be a clear statement of how contingencies and other resources will be allocated. Academies will continue to receive a share of funding for these services in their delegated budget.

29. Where there has been agreement that a school is entitled to a contingency allocation, that agreement should be honoured if it converts to an Academy. We may take such decisions into account in making recoupment adjustments.

30. Many local authorities are experiencing significant increases in primary pupil numbers, which are sufficient to require schools to take on additional classes. Given that authorities have a duty to secure sufficient school places, we will be allowing them, with the agreement of the schools forum, to retain funding centrally through contingencies for additional maintained primary school places. The EFA will make separate arrangements for Academies facing increased costs due to pupil growth, and local authorities are not expected to provide contingency for this purpose.

31. Special schools will not in future have delegated budgets on the same basis as primary and secondary schools. They will get £10,000 per place, plus top-up funding for each pupil they have, from the commissioner to make up the rest of their budget. The principle of the new system for high needs pupils is to make costs comparable between schools so that they don't distort placements, so de-delegation is not consistent with this framework."

#### **4. Recommendations**

4.1 Maintained Primary School members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of Free School Meal Eligibility Service.

4.2 Maintained Primary School members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of Insurance Service.

4.3 Maintained Primary School members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of Licenses/Subscriptions.

4.4 Maintained Primary School members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of Staff Costs – Maternity Supply cover

4.5 Maintained Primary School members of Schools Forum approve de-delegation of Staff Costs – Union and Public Duties

4.6 Maintained Primary School members of Schools Forum approve de-  
legation of Behaviour Support Services

4.7 Maintained Primary School members of Schools Forum approve de-  
legation of Library and Museum Services