

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	SCHOOLS FORUM 13 NOVEMBER 2013	Agenda Item	6
Report Title	Feedback on consultation, centrally retained budgets and De-delegation for 2014-15		
Decision/ Discussion/ Information	For Information and Decision		
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Appendices	Appendix A: Consultation responses on Growth and factors used in Local Funding Formula for 2014-15. Appendix B: Consultation responses on De-delegation of funding from maintained schools in the schools block for 2014-15.		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides feedback on the Schools Block Funding 2014-15 Consultation affecting Individual School Budgets which was issued on 9 October 2013. This is in relation to decisions made by Schools Forum on 18 September 2013, including the use of funding factors in the calculation of the Schools Block and the early years uplift adjustment. The consultation also required responses on De-delegation of Schools Block funding for 2014-15 from maintained schools. The consultation ended on 5 November 2013.
- 1.2 Schools Forum is required to note the items of central expenditure and also to note the outcome of the consultation. For De-delegation, Schools Forum is required to vote by sector (Primary and Secondary maintained) in relation to each item.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Schools Forum notes:

- 2.1 The responses to the consultation questions on Growth and the factors used in the Local Funding Formula as shown in Appendix A. A majority of respondents agreed each proposal.

- 2.2 The responses from consultation questions on De-delegation as shown in Appendix B. Not all proposals were agreed by respondents.
- 2.3 The centrally retained items for 2014-15 for Admissions and Appeals is £745,000, Administration and Servicing of Schools Forum is £56,000 and Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA), and the Music Publishers Association (MPA) charges estimated to be £70,000.

That Schools Forum decides:

- 2.4 To approve Option 1 for the support to schools with falling rolls for the Growth Fund.

That voting members of Schools Forum, who are Governors and Head Teachers of maintained primary schools only, decide on De-delegation of the following items:

- 2.5 Schools Contingency of £203,000
- 2.6 Occupational Health of £65,300
- 2.7 Trade Union facility time of £90,000

That voting members of Schools Forum, who are Governors and Head Teachers of maintained secondary schools only, decide on De-delegation of the following items:

- 2.8 Schools Contingency of £97,000
- 2.9 Occupational Health of £31,200
- 2.10 Trade Union facility time of £43,000

3 REASON

- 3.1 From 2013-14, the funding arrangements for schools changed by the introduction of the funding blocks.
- 3.2 The Local Authority together with Schools Forum is responsible for setting the Local Funding Formula (LFF) for all Waltham Forest Schools and Academies. Task and Finish Groups of Schools Forum members agreed a number of changes to LFF. These were accepted by Schools Forum on 18 September 2013, subject to consultation.

- 3.3 The regulations allow only certain functions to be retained centrally; including Growth for significant increases in the number of 5 -16 year olds. This was discussed at Schools Forum held on 18 September 2013. The LA can also retain funding for admissions, appeals, copyright licensing and the servicing and administration of Schools Forum, the amounts of which have to be confirmed by Schools Forum. Both these services are required under statute to be provided by the authority.
- 3.4 Maintained mainstream schools can opt to return (“de-delegate”) some elements of central funding. These amounts are deducted from the final school budget shares after applying the Local Funding Formula. Regulations require that Schools Forum by sector must decide to de-delegate these amounts i.e. Primary and Secondary sectors. De-delegation is not an option for academies, special schools, nurseries or PRUs, however these settings may contribute by buying back any service provided by the local authority.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Decisions to add or remove factors from our LFF had to be taken by Schools Forum at the meeting of 18 September 2013 so that they can be reported to the EFA by the 31 October deadline. Therefore adjustments need to be provisionally agreed at the meeting of 18 September 2013, subject to the outcome of consultation with schools.
- 4.2 Before calculating the individual school budget shares using the LFF, the regulations allow for the deduction of growth and the centrally retained items. This affects all schools including academies. De-delegation on the other hand affects only maintained schools within the Schools Block and is applied to final schools budget shares after the application of the LFF.
- 4.3 Maintained schools will receive funding based on the Local Funding Formula. De-delegation is a deduction from their final budget shares. This money can be used set up a schools central contingency for:
- a) Exceptional unforeseen costs that could not be reasonably met by Governing bodies.
 - b) Schools in financial difficulty.
 - c) Additional costs relating to new, reorganised or closing schools.
- 4.4 Any unused funding will be returned to contributing schools in the following financial year. The contingency amount in 2013-14 is £300,000. This is estimated to be £11.69 per pupil in 2014-15 (£11.93 in 2013-14).
- 4.5 The Occupational Health Service contract ends in June 2014. Initial consultation with primary and secondary schools suggests that a contract extension to June 2015 will be considered. The total cost for the period July

2014 to June 2015 is estimated to be £96,500 (£111,000 for July 2013 to June 2014). This is estimated to be £3.76 per pupil in 2014-15 (£4.41 in 2013-14).

- 4.6 Trade Union Facility Time is estimated to be £5.18 per pupil in 2014-15 amounting to £133,000. This was not de-delegated in 2013-14, had it been the comparative figure would be £5.29 per pupil.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The consultation document was issued on 9 October 2013 with a closing date of 5 November 2013. Appendix A shows a summary of consultation responses. Appendix B summarises responses in relation to De-delegation.
- 5.2 There were three sections in the consultation: Questions 3 to 6 on changes to the School Block 5-16 growth fund; Questions 7 to 14 on the Schools Block 5-16 LFF for 2014-15; and Questions 15 to 17 on De-delegation.
- 5.3 There was a total number of 50 responses, where 34 (68%) of respondents answered all questions. This is summarised by school type below:

Maintained Primary	Primary Academy	Maintained Secondary	Secondary Academy	All Through School	Free School	Response Count
34 68%	3 6%	9 18%	3 6%	1 2%	0 0%	50 100%

- 5.4 Question 3 on use of Growth Fund: 19/32 (59.4%) agreed.
- 5.5 Question 4 on the options to support schools with falling rolls: 12/20 (60%) supported Option1.
- 5.6 Question 5 on the use of the Growth Fund to support Leadership and Management: 17/31 (54.8%) agreed.
- 5.7 Question 6 on reception uplift: 31/33(93.9%) agreed.
- 5.8 Questions 7 to 14 on the LFF: at least 58% of respondents supported every proposal.
- 5.9 On De-delegation for Contingency: Primary 9/16 (56.3%) did not agree; Secondary sector, 8/8 (100%) agreed. The one All Through school agreed.
- 5.10 On De-delegation on Occupational Health: Primary 14/18(77.8%) agreed; Secondary 5/7 (71%) agreed. The one All Through school agreed.
- 5.11 On Trade Union Facility Time: Primary 12/14 (85.7%) did not agree; Secondary 4/6 (66.7%) did not agree. The one All Through school agreed.