

## To – Schools Forum – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### De-Delegation and Centrally Retained Decisions for 2018/19

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#### 1. Why is this coming here – what decision is required?

Under the Government's current funding rules there is an assumption of delegation for a number of budget areas which are currently held centrally for maintained schools and are delegated for academies. Each year maintained schools' representative on the Schools Forum vote, by phase and on behalf of the schools they represent, to de-delegate these areas i.e. allow the LA to hold the budgets rather than delegate to schools; where it is proposed by the local authority. The outcome of the vote is binding for all maintained schools of that phase.

For 2018/19, Torbay Council Children's Services is proposing the option of de-delegation for all of the areas shown in the table below. It is for Torbay's Schools Forum to vote on each on behalf of schools. The vote is being carried out at this time to enable schools and services time plan for their budgets and responsibilities for 2018/19.

Under the national funding arrangements the government wants schools to have the opportunity to have as much funding and responsibility delegated to them as possible. The vote determines whether or not a range of costs currently met centrally will transfer to maintained schools for them to manage themselves.

Academies are not part of these arrangements since these responsibilities and the funding for them are automatically delegated to academies through the EFA use of the local funding formula.

Actual figures for 2018/19 will be finalised over the next couple of months as the settlement and the school census become available. See individual spreadsheets for detail and voting boxes

#### 2. Centrally Retained budgets

These budget areas can be retained before allocating formula with the agreement of the Schools Forum. For Torbay this is Planned Pupil Growth, School Admissions Service and Servicing the Schools Forum.

Other than pupil growth, a centrally retained budget area can only be retained at the level of the previous year and cannot have any new commitments or budget increases. The School Forum is required to approve the amounts against each budget area. See Appendix 2 for details and voting boxes

All Members of the Schools Forum have an EQUAL vote on these items.

### **3. Recommendations**

That the Schools Forum considers the proposals in this report and for:-

Maintained schools members vote on the de-delegation items on behalf of the phase of schools they represent

All schools and academies vote on centrally retained items

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