

## To – Schools Forum – 4th December 2014

### De-Delegation and Centrally Retained Decisions for 2015/16

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#### 1. Recommendations

That the Schools Forum considers the issues in this report and maintained schools members vote on each heading on behalf of the schools they represent.

#### 2. 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 can vote, by phase and on behalf of the schools they represent, to de-delegate these areas where it is proposed by the local authority. The outcome of the vote is binding for all maintained schools of that phase.

The authority is proposing the option of de-delegation for all of these areas for 2015/16 to enable the 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 2015/16.

Under the new 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. The budget for these costs would also transfer to schools on a formula basis which we consulted on in 2013/14.

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.

The budgets de-delegated last year following the equivalent vote are set out in the table below. The values are the 2014/15 budget levels for all primary and secondary schools (i.e. excluding academies) to provide the context of the values involved. Actual figures for 2015/16 will be finalised over the next couple of months as the settlement and the school census become available. See appendix 1 for detail and voting boxes

Budget/Service Area	Primary £	Secondary £
Free School meals Eligibility	4,200	2,913
Insurance	55,883	27,784
Facilities/Union Activities	5,376	2,673
English as an Additional Language	15,857	7,361
Travellers Education	4,629	2,301
Business Rates Contingency	20,569	10,227
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,513</b>	<b>53,259</b>

#### 3. Centrally Retained budgets

These budget areas can be retained before allocating formula with the agreement of the Schools Forum. For Torbay this is pupil growth

There are also other centrally retained budget areas which can also be retained before allocating formula but no new commitments or budget increases can be approved. The School Forum is required to approve the amounts against each budget area. For Torbay this includes Admissions, Servicing of the Schools Forum and Capital expenditure funded from revenue. See appendix 2 for details and voting boxes

All Members of the Schools Forum can vote on these items.

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