

Schools Forum – 10th January 2019

Education Services for Maintained Schools

Context

On the 29th November 2018, School Forum took their decisions regarding de-delegation and centrally retained funds for 2019/2020. At this meeting the delegation of funds to provide education services for maintained schools resulted in a positive de-delegation decision for primary phase and a negative de-delegation decision for secondary phase.

Following this decision officers revisited the statutory guidance to determine how this could be implemented. Officers found that the EFSA Schools Revenue Funding 19/20 operational guide did not allow for this decision to be taken by phases individually for education services and as such the decision taken by forum could not be implemented into the template that is required back to the EFSA. The EFSA regulations state in the following in the section for Services for maintained schools

- 154 Local authorities can fund some services relating to maintained schools only from maintained school budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum.
- 155 The relevant maintained schools members of the schools forum (primary, secondary, special, and pupil referral units (PRUs)) should agree the amount the local authority will retain.
- 155.1 If the local authority and schools forum are unable to reach a consensus on the amount to be retained by the local authority, the matter can be referred to the Secretary of State.
- 156 Local authorities should set a single rate per 5 to 16 year old pupil for all mainstream maintained schools, both primary and secondary; in the interests of simplicity, this should be deducted from basic entitlement funding.

What action is required of School Forum?

Maintained Schools need to revisit the de-delegation report of 29th November 2018 and take a collective vote that can be implemented in line with the EFSA Schools Revenue Funding 2019/2020 operational guide. The original 29th November 2018 is included in the paper to enable the decision to be revisited.

Future decision making on de-delegation needs to be taken in the context of maintained schools, rather than phases. Officers need to amend the decision template for School Forum.

Recommendation

That school forum reconsider their decision in light of the EFSA regulations and take a decision as a Maintained school sector rather than phase.

Rachael Williams

Assistant Director of Education, Learning and Skills

SCHOOLS FORUM 10/1/19			
EDUCATION FUNCTIONS FOR 19/20 - DECISION FOR SCHOOL FORUM (MAINTAINED MEMBERS ONLY)			
THESE FIGURES WILL BE UPDATED ONCE OCT 18 PUPIL NUMBERS ARE KNOWN			
DfE No.	School Name	Pupil Numbers NOR Oct-17	Education Functions
2407	Furzeham Primary	275	(1,694)
2439	White Rock Primary	544	(3,351)
2455	Homelands Primary	207	(1,275)
2460	Watcombe Primary	195	(1,201)
2469	Sherwell Valley Primary	645	(3,973)
3103	Brixham Primary	212	(1,306)
	TOTAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS	2,078	(12,800)
4117	The Spires College	728	(4,484)
4601	St Cuthbert Mayne School	768	(4,731)
	TOTAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS	1,496	(9,215)
	TOTAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY	3,574	(22,016)
PRIMARY / SECONDARY - Is funding going to be retained in 19/20 (Y/N)			
		Unit Value per pupil	
		£	
	Education Support Functions	6.16	

De-Delegation and Centrally Retained Decisions for 2019/20

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 2019/20, 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 2019/20.

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 ESFA.

Actual figures for 2019/20 will change from those presented, as they will be based on the October 18 census, this data will be available towards the end of December. See individual sheet for detail and voting boxes.

2. Centrally Retained budgets

These budget areas can be retained with the agreement of the Schools Forum. For Torbay this is Planned Pupil Growth, School Admissions Service, Servicing the Schools Forum, Centrally retained element of the Early Years Block (5%) and disapplication request to transfer funds from the School Block to High Needs. The School Forum is required to approve the amounts against each budget area. See individual sheet for detail 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 and for:-

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

Rachael Williams
Assistant Director of Education, Learning and Skills