

ITEM NO: 2

Report To:	SCHOOLS FORUM
Date:	21 March 2016
Reporting Officer:	Bob Berry – Interim Assistant Executive Director - Learning. Peter Timmins – Interim S151 Officer – Directorate of Governance and Resources. .
Subject:	DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2016/17 DE-DELEGATION DECISION
Report Summary:	A report on the decision Maintained Schools need to make concerning potential de-delegation of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2016/17.
Recommendations:	Members of the Schools Forum are requested to note the contents of the report. Members of the Primary and Secondary sectors are required to vote on the De-delegation of funding for each of the four services in Section 2.6 of the report.
Links to Community Strategy:	Effectively calculated and targeted resources will improve access to a high quality education experience for all our children.
Policy Implications:	Expenditure in line with financial and policy framework.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)	The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring fenced grant solely for the purposes of schools and pupil related expenditure. As such it can only be used within the Schools Budget and is not available for use elsewhere in the Council. There has been no inflation applied to the Dedicated Schools Grant in Tameside by the Department for Education/Education Funding Agency since April 2010. The funding allocated to Tameside is primarily based on the number of pupils on the preceding Autumn Term Pupil Census.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	There is a statutory duty to use resources efficiently and effectively against priorities.
Risk Management:	The correct accounting treatment of the Dedicated Schools Grant is a condition of the grant and procedures exist in budget monitoring and the closure of accounts to ensure that this is achieved. These will be subject to regular review.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

This report does not contain information which warrants

its consideration in the absence of the Press or members of the public.

Background Papers

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Stephen Wilde – Head of Resource Management, Directorate of Finance by:



Telephone:0161 342 3726



e-mail: stephen.wilde@tameside.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A report on the changes to the schools funding process was initially brought to the Schools Forum in May 2012 following consultation by the Department for Education (DFE) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) which started in March 2012. The DFE/EFA have been clear that the new funding formula will:
- Be a precursor to a national funding formula, to be administered by the EFA in the next Comprehensive Spending Review period which is still expected to be from 2015/16;
 - Ensure that 'funding follows the pupil' by restricting the ability to direct funding towards school organisation or premises issues;
 - Reward schools that attract pupils;
 - Ensure transparency, so schools in similar positions receive similar levels of funding;
 - Be simpler than the current process; and
 - Maximise delegation.
- 1.2 In this context, and as agreed with the Heads and Chairs of Governors, the priority for the 2013/14 local funding formula was to work within the parameters established by the DfE, whilst trying to secure financial stability for local schools as they moved from one funding regime to another. This approach was continued in 2014/15 and 2015/16 where only minor changes were made to funding unit rates in Tameside.
- 1.3 Based on summary data released by the DFE/EFA the most notable area in relation to the Tameside funding scheme was that 96.3% of DSG was delegated to Schools in Tameside in 2014/15, which is a high level compared to other authorities nationally.
- 1.4 Section 2 and **Appendix A** of the report contains additional information about the services that Maintained Schools are being asked to consider de-delegating. Section 2.6 includes a request to vote on the annual de-delegation of 4 central services.
- 1.5 This report is presented as a dedicated item as members of the Schools Forum were unable to vote on the provision of these services during 2016/2017 at the meeting on 2 March 2016.

2. DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2016/17 DE-DELEGATION DECISION

- 2.1 De-delegation is the terminology employed by the DFE in relation to Schools Forum representatives of Council Maintained Schools voting on whether to support mandatory charging to all other Council Maintained Schools of certain Council services. The Primary and Secondary sector vote separately in relation to each of the services. The De-delegation rates in 2016/17 are proposed to be the same for 2016/17 as in 2015/16.
- 2.2 The Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion Service is part of the Local Authority and works in partnership with schools, within a framework of inclusion, to help them promote positive behaviour and to provide effective support to pupils, parents and schools where behaviour is preventing learning and affecting achievement. The Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion Service plays an important role providing schools with support which is both preventative and also directly supporting children with emotional, behavioural and social difficulties. Additional details of the service provided are contained in **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 The team offers development initiatives, support packages, training and resources focused on all aspects of English as an Additional Language and Equalities. Practitioners in Tameside EMA Team are members of the Northern Association of Support Services for Equality and Achievement. (NASSEA). This team aims to ensure entitlement, access and

equality for minority ethnic pupils. The team does this by working with schools to provide support and challenge to improve the achievement of minority ethnic pupils. Additional details of the service provided are contained in **Appendix A**.

- 2.4 There is a legal responsibility for a school to provide access to the Professional Associations for its employees. The Teacher Association Secretaries provide expertise in employment relations matters that are vital not just to employees, but also the employer and its managers in Schools and Colleges. This covers a number of areas and can include the writing of policies, health and safety and employment issues. The presence of trade union representatives assists management in employment relations matters and in the implementation of agreements to ensure the smoother running of the workplace. Additional details of the service provided are contained in **Appendix A**.
- 2.5 The contingency budget is available to provide additional financial support to Schools who incur unexpected costs. During 2015/16 only Primary Schools contributed towards this funding. An example of how it was used was the allocation of contingency funding to Schools who had experienced an increase in the net cost of the central Catering service as a result of the changes in the charging mechanism for that service. There is a projected under spend against the Contingency budget in 2015/16 of £61,262 and therefore an additional option would be to use that unspent balance as a Contingency budget in 2016/17, instead of de-delegating the funding again. As this budget is a contingency there are no additional details in **Appendix A**.
- 2.6 Members of the Primary and Secondary Maintained sectors respectively are recommended to approve in principle for each sector the de-delegation of service costs in relation to the following services:
- a) Behaviour for Learning and Inclusion (BLIS)
 - b) Equality, Multiculturalism and Access (EMAT)
 - c) Staff Cover for Trade Union Support
 - d) Schools Contingency

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As stated on the report cover