

APPENDIX 14 – DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2023/24

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Executive Member for Education, Achievement and Equalities and the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) are required to provide Council sign off to the decisions made by Schools' Forum at the meeting of 19 January 2023 in which the following decisions were made.
- 1.2 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the proposed Dedicated Schools Grant 2023-24 funding formula for mainstream schools. This is to continue with national funding formula rates, set the minimum funding guarantee at 0.5% and have no gains cap (Option 3 as set out in paragraph 3.10).
- 1.3 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the growth fund for 2023-24.
- 1.4 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the proposed transfer of 0.345% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block further to the outcome of consultation.
- 1.5 Members of the Schools Forum from the Maintained Schools Secondary Sector voted to de-delegate funding for Schools Contingency at a rate of £5.81 per pupil.
- 1.6 Members of the Schools' Forum supported schools continued contribution to Tameside Safeguarding Board for 2023-24.
- 1.7 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the allocation of the Central School Services Block which includes the central retention of the following:
 - School Admissions;
 - Servicing of Schools' Forum; and
 - contribution to responsibilities that LAs hold for all schools (the retained duties element of the ESG)
- 1.8 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the central retention of Early Years Funding.
- 1.9 Members of the Schools' Forum agreed to de-delegation for the whole maintained sector at a cost per pupil of £12.78 to fund the school improvement function previously funded by the School Improvement and Brokerage grant.
- 1.10 This report sets out information on the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2023-24.
 - Section 2 is a summary of the DSG settlement from the DfE/ESFA.
 - Section 3 provides details of the Schools Block and proposed funding formula for Mainstream Schools in Tameside in 2023-24.
 - Section 4 provides details of the outcome of consultation.
 - Section 5 provides details of the High Needs Block.
 - Section 6 provides details of the Early Years Block.
 - Section 7 provides details of the Central School Service Block (CSSB).
 - Section 8 provides details of the School Improvement De-Delegation.

2. PROVISIONAL DSG SETTLEMENT FOR 2023-24

- 2.1 The provisional DSG settlement for Tameside for 2023-24 of £257.527m was received on 16 December 2022, with accompanying essential data released on 20 December 2022. All DSG

funding must be deployed to schools and / or pupils in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023.

- 2.2 In addition to DSG, the government has announced it will invest an extra £2.3 billion per year in schools over the next two years. The actual increase to the education budget is £2 billion after an adjustment has been made to remove the element that related to the Health and Social Care Levy.
- 2.3 For Tameside, a Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) for 2023-24 has been allocated totalling £6.915m. Schools will have the flexibility to prioritise their spending of the MSAG to best support the needs of their pupils and staff and address cost pressures. Additional funding of £1.636m has been allocated to support the High Needs Block.
- 2.4 Table 1 provides the breakdown of the provisional settlement for the four blocks within the DSG announced in December 2022, compared with the 2022-23 latest settlement figures.

TABLE 1 – DSG Settlement as at December 2022

DSG Blocks	2022-23 £000	2023-24 £000	Increase £000	% Increase	Additional Funding £000
Schools Block (includes Academies) *	196,372	201,052	4,680	2.38%	6,915
High Needs Block (before recoupment) **	32,843	37,144	4,302	13.10%	
Early Years Block	17,304	18,082	778	4.49%	
Central Services Block (CSSB)	1,182	1,249	67	5.66%	
Total Funding Including Growth	247,701	257,527	9,826	3.97%	6,915

Note: the table above includes roundings

** The 2022-23 allocation includes the School Supplementary Grant, which has been rolled into the 2023-24 DSG baselines. It should be noted Academy funding is recouped by the ESFA. The amount recouped by the ESFA is calculated using the formula set out in Section 3.*

*** The additional £1.636m for high needs is included within the £37.144m allocation for the High Needs Block*

- 2.5 The Schools Block increase relates to an increase in DfE funding rates and an uplift for RPIX on PFI.
- 2.6 The High Needs block increase relates to an increase in pupil numbers and the per head gain Tameside is seeing as a result of the National Funding Formula. The gains cap is set at 7% for 2023-24, allowing Local Authority's (LAs) to see an increase up to this amount compared to the 2022-23 actual high needs allocation. The high needs block has nationally benefited from an additional £400m additional investment (referred to above). This results in an additional £1.636m allocated to Tameside meaning the overall increase to the high needs budget is £4.302m, 13.10% before recoupment. Further details are included in a separate agenda item.

- 2.7 The Early Years Block increase relates to an increase in the DfE funding rate rates and further details can be found in Section 5.
- 2.8 The CSSB increase relates to an increase an increase in the DfE funding rate, further information is provided in Section 6.

3. SCHOOLS BLOCK

- 3.1 The Schools Block is the largest element of DSG funding which provides the majority of funding for Mainstream Schools and Academies, with additional elements being allocated through the Early Years and High Needs blocks. The schools block settlement from the DfE is made up of the following funding:
- A primary unit of funding (PUF) of £4,996.61
 - A secondary unit of funding (SUF) of £6,486.04
- 3.2 This core school funding covers funding for all pupil and school led factors in the funding formula. The PUF and SUF are multiplied by the pupil numbers in reception to year 6 plus pupils aged 4 to 10 not assigned to a year group for primary and pupils in years 7 to 11, plus pupils aged 11 to 15, not assigned to a year group for secondary.
- Premises – this includes PFI and business rates which are based on historical spend. Business rates are included in the LA allocation but will be top sliced from the DSG allocation and retained by the ESFA who will make payments to all LA's directly on behalf of Schools.
 - Growth – this is calculated using the difference between the primary and secondary numbers on roll on the October 2021 and October 2022 school censuses.

TABLE 2 – Schools Block Settlement from DfE

Element of Funding	Schools Block £000
Primary Funding (20,099.5 Pupils)	100,429
Secondary Funding (14,781 Pupils)	95,870
Premises	3,913
Growth	839
Total	201,052
Business Rates included within Schools Block	(2,003)
Total Allocation less Business Rates	199,048

Proposed Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools

- 3.3 The rates used for each sector to allocate the funding to each individual school are included at **Appendix A**.
- 3.4 The PFI funding continues to be delegated to the relevant schools. The delegated figures have been uplifted by RPIX of 11.2%, which reflects the increase in the unitary charge paid for the delivery of PFI services. This element of funding will be recovered by the LA in 2023-24 as in previous years.
- 3.5 Business Rates are funded to the equivalent value of the Business Rates charge for 2023-24. This funding is estimated and will be removed from Tameside's allocations and retained by the DfE who will pay this directly to Tameside MBC (the billing authority) on behalf of all Tameside Schools and Academies.

- 3.6 In 2023-24 LAs are able to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) between +0% and +0.5% per pupil. A Gains Cap can be used, which is a limiting factor that limits the gain in pupil led funding per pupil that a School receives. This factor has been used in previous years to enable the LA to meet its statutory duty to set a balanced DSG budget.
- 3.7 The provisional figures from DfE indicated it would be affordable to:
- Continue to apply the 2023-24 national funding formula rates;
 - set the MFG protection at the highest rate of 0.5%;
 - remove the gains cap; and
 - still transfer 0.5% of the School Block Funding to the High Needs Block.
- 3.8 On receipt of the updated figures from DfE and with the updated data set (October 2022 census data) used to calculate the formula, the scenario in 3.7 above is not affordable within the funding allocation for the Schools Block as there is a shortfall of approximately £312k.
- 3.9 As set out in 3.1, the funding we are allocated as an LA is predominantly based on the PUF and SUF allocation. These rates are set prior to the data set (October 2022 census data) being updated, so do not take into account any changes in the data set. There has been a significant increase in the demand on funding within the Additional Education Needs (AEN) element of the funding formula. This includes FSM, FSM6, IDACI (deprivation factors), EAL, Low Prior Attainment and Mobility. Therefore, we have had to review how the formula could be affordable whilst remaining as close as possible to the scenario we consulted schools on.
- 3.10 The options we have explored are as follows:
- **Option 1 – Include a gains cap to balance the budget:** There are 24 schools that would be affected by capping their gain, which would total approximately £315k. The cap would allow a gain up to 4.6% increase in funding. This assumes the MFG is set at 0.5% as stated in the consultation.
 - **Option 2 – Set the MFG at 0% and include a gains cap:** There are 7 schools who are in receipt of MFG and this would only save £34k which would be transferred to the gaining schools (of which 23 would be affected). To balance the budget there would need to be a cap of 4.7% (allowing a increase of funding up to 4.7%) which would total approximately £281k.
 - **Option 3 – Reduce the 0.5% transfer to the High Needs Block:** The 0.5% would provide £1.005m to support the High Needs Block. In order to balance the budget, keep MFG at 0.5% and have no cap on gains, the block transfer will need to reduce to 0.345%. This would provide support of £694k to the High Needs Block.
- 3.11 Recognising the current financial climate and significant pressures on school budgets, the LA suggest that Schools' Forum approve Option 3 in setting the formula for 2023-24. There is significant pressure on High Needs, but all schools are facing increasing pressures. In adopting Option 3, support is still being given to High Needs and the gaining schools will receive the increased funding, which relates to the additional needs factors. Those schools with MFG also remain protected to the highest level.

Growth

- 3.12 There are 2 types of growth that are funded from the growth fund. Explicit Growth and Implicit Growth.
- Explicit growth relates to the specific growth fund and is allocated based on the growth criteria agreed by Schools Forum.
 - Implicit growth relates to adjustments to pupil numbers when calculating the funding; in this case for new and growing schools.

- 3.13 The policy for accessing the growth fund was agreed by Schools' Forum in June 2019 and continues to be the method for allocating explicit growth.
- 3.14 The estimated Growth Fund required in 2023-24 is £274k and detail of this is included in Table 3. There is no implicit growth in 2023-24 as the new schools now have all year groups. The final growth allocation will be based on actual numbers, which will be taken from the October 2023 census.

TABLE 3 – Explicit Growth

School	£000
Milton St John's CofE Primary School	14
St. Thomas More RC College	42
All Saints Catholic College	84
Audenshaw School	84
Droylsden Academy	42
Unallocated Growth	10
Total	274

De-delegation – Contingency

- 3.15 The contingency budget has been established to support those schools facing a deficit budget position or to support the DSG against any future pressures where schools are closing or are forced to convert to academy leaving a deficit balance, as this would need to be funded from DSG. It should be noted that a deficit balance transfers to the Academy Trust where the transfer to Academy is through a convertor route, i.e. the School chooses via an Academy order to convert to an Academy. The balance remains a DSG issue where conversion is forced as part of a Sponsored Academy conversion route required by the Secretary of State.
- 3.16 Where a school is in deficit or facing deficit in the next financial year they will be subject to a review in line with the School Deficit process as outlined within the Tameside Scheme Financing. The LA will work very closely with the school and its Governors to manage the deficit and ensure action is taken to address it
- 3.17 It is also anticipated that schools struggling to manage deficits where financial issues are beyond the control or influence of the Head teacher could apply. This would be exceptional circumstances, and where significant action had already been taken to bring the plan back into balance and where further cuts are likely to impact on the attainment of the pupils in the school.
- 3.18 Alongside this, support will be provided to schools closing with deficit balances to minimise the impact and potential pressure on the DSG.
- 3.19 The de-delegation rate for Contingency for 2023-24 remains at £5.81 per pupil. Agreement is sought from both the Primary and Secondary sectors to de-delegate in 2023-24. Should both sectors choose to contribute, based on the October 2022 census data, this would result in the following contribution to Contingency:
- Mainstream Primary Maintained Schools - £65k
 - Mainstream Secondary Maintained Schools - £35k
- 3.20 There have been no requests made to the contingency fund during 2022-23. The fund will be carried forward into 2023-24 less any approvals that may be agreed before year-end.

3.21 The balances in contingency are as outlined in the table below.

TABLE 4 – Contingency Contributions

School	Primary £000	Secondary £000	Total £000
Balance at 31.03.2022	67	99	166
2022-23 De-delegations	0	34	34
Total	67	133	200

Safeguarding

3.22 As in previous financial years Schools are asked to support safeguarding in the borough, by agreeing to make a contribution of £3.03 per pupil towards the cost of the TSCP (Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership). All schools are asked to support the continuation of this arrangement in 2023-24. This equates to approximately £106k.

Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA)

3.23 Where schools have opted into this arrangement in 2022-23, the membership will continue on an ongoing basis. Should a school choose to opt out of the arrangement they would need to make their own risk protection arrangements. The cost of RPA for 2023-24 is £23 per pupil. The LA will continue to treat this in the same way as de-delegation items and recover the cost from the relevant schools on this basis as the DfE recover this funding from the DSG. It should be noted that nursery numbers are included to calculate the charge for the primary sector (where relevant).

Additional Funding

3.24 As stated at 2.3 of this report, the DfE have announced a Mainstream Schools Additional Grant. This will be paid as a separate grant for 2023-24 and it is the DfE's intention for this to be rolled into the DSG baseline allocation from 2024-25.

3.25 The allocation will be based on the October 2022 census. The basis of allocating this funding is as follows;

- basic per pupil rate for pupils (reception through to year 11), £119 for primary, £168 for key stage 3 and £190 for key stage 4
- a lump sum of £4,510 per school
- a rate for FSM6 (£104 per eligible primary pupil and £152 per eligible secondary pupil)

The school level allocations for 2023-24 will be published in May 2023.

4. OUTCOME OF THE SCHOOLS FUNDING CONSULTATION

4.1 In line with funding regulation requirements consultation has been carried out with all schools and Academies in Tameside with regards to the funding for 2023-24.

4.2 At the 27 September 2022 meeting, Schools' Forum agreed in principle to support a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in 2023-24, subject to affordability.

4.3 Consultation took place with all Schools and Academies between 12 December and 4 January. The consultation was carried out via survey monkey, and shared with all schools. Governor Services also shared the consultation with Chairs of Governors.

- 4.4 The consultation advised the allocation basis for the Schools Block funding continues to be based on the national funding formula. Based on the provisional LA allocation the MFG would be set at the highest rate of 0.5%, there would be no gains cap and the 0.5% transfer to the High Needs block was affordable on this basis. Schools were asked: Do you support a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block (as agreed in principle with Schools Forum).
- 4.5 There were 18 responses received in total but there were duplicate responses received for two schools, which have been removed. 56% (9 respondents) support the 0.5% transfer and 44% (7 respondents after removing duplicates) do not support the 0.5% transfer.
- 4.6 Schools Forum are asked to note the outcome of consultation when making the schools block transfer decision.

5. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

- 5.1 Following the update at the last forum meeting in September 2022, the provisional high needs funding settlement has been updated with the December 2022 announcements and these are included in Table 5a and 5b below along with a comparison to 2022-23.

TABLE 5a – Updated High Needs Settlement 2023-24

	2022-23 Allocation £000	2023-24 Allocation £000	Difference £000	%
2022-23 Historic spend factor	8,818	8,818	0	0.00%
2022-23 Other proxy factor funding	22,703	26,807	4,104	18.08%
2022-23 Funding floor factor	0	0	0	0.00%
2022-23 Gains limit adjustment	(2,988)	(3,479)	(491)	16.43%
Additional funding for special free schools	42	0	(42)	-100.00%
Supplementary funding	1,300	0	(1,300)	-100.00%
Adjusted 2022-23 baseline	29,875	32,146	2,271	7.60%
Basic Entitlement	3,633	3,981	348	9.58%
AP Factor	187	192	5	2.67%
Less Import / Export	(852)	(810)	42	-4.93%
Published December 2022	32,843	35,509	2,666	8.12%
New Additional Funding	0	1,636	1,636	0.00%
Final Allocation Published December 2022	32,843	37,144	4,302	13.10%
Less Recoupment	(4,125)	(4,264)	(139)	3.37%
Total HN Block (After Recoupment)	28,718	32,881	4,163	14.50%

Note: table includes roundings

- 5.2 This funding is subject to further updates in the financial year 2023-24 to reflect 2023-24 high needs places and import / export adjustments.
- 5.3 Tameside are seeing an increase in the National Funding Formula allocation of £2.666m, 8% and this is after the schools supplementary funding from 2022-23 has been rolled into the 2023-24 baseline and the budget is updated with growth in pupil numbers from the October 2022 census as below.

TABLE 5b – Updated Pupil Numbers funded in High Needs Block

Basic Entitlement	2022-23	2023-24	Difference
Increase in Numbers	773	847	74
Cash Value £	4,700	4,700	0.41
Total Allocation £	3,632,845	3,980,968	348,123

- 5.4 In addition, the government has announced it will invest an extra £2.3 billion per year in schools over the next two years. The actual increase to the education budget is £2 billion after an adjustment has been made to remove the element that related to the Health and Social Care Levy. Of this increase, the high needs block will benefit from an increase of £400 million and in Tameside this means an additional £1.636m taking the overall increase to £4.301m, 13% compared to 2022-23.
- 5.5 Local Authorities (LA's) are required by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) conditions of grant to pass on to special schools the allocations of additional funding using a proportion of their additional high needs funding in 2 ways:
- For 2023-24, a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will be applied to special schools budgets. Previously this has always been set at 0% however, for 2023-24, it has been set at 3% (compared to the 2021-22 baselines)
 - For 2023-24, special schools and Alternative Provision (AP) Schools will receive a separate additional allocation amounting to 3.4% of their total place and top up funding allocated in 2022-23.
- 5.6 The additional 3.4% funding allocation will be excluded from the MFG calculations, so that schools receive both the 3% MFG increase over 2 years and the additional 3.4% in 2023-24.
- 5.7 The LA is currently modelling how this funding will be passported to special and AP schools and both elements of the additional funding will be included in the budget allocations distributed to schools end of February.
- 5.8 The additional funding to both schools and the high needs budget is good news and will go some way to supporting the pressures schools are facing in terms of pay awards and inflation. And although it will in some way mitigate some of the pressure on the high needs deficit budget there will continue to be a significant deficit to manage. The projected in-year deficit on the high needs block for 2022-23 is expected to be £4.385m, which reduces to £2.743m with the £0.954m transfer from the schools block and a combination of both savings and cost avoidance totalling £0.688m identified in the Deficit Recovery Plan.
- 6. EARLY YEARS BLOCK**
- 6.1 Table 6 provides the current funding settlement for Early Years for 2022-23 and 2023-24. The settlement is based on the Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision censuses data from January 2022. The 2023-24 information will be updated based on January 2023 census data.

TABLE 6 – Early Years Funding

Early Years Funding Streams	2022-23 Early Years Allocation at Nov 2022 £000	2023-24 Provisional Early Years Allocation £000	Increase / (Decrease) in Funding £000
3 & 4 Year Old Universal Entitlement	9,618	10,097	479
3 & 4 Year Old Extended Entitlement	4,506	4,730	224
2 Year Old Entitlement	2,888	2,919	31
Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)	198	204	7
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	94	132	37
Total	17,304	18,082	778

- 6.2 The increase in funding across all Early Years streams is due to an increase in the funding rates.
- 6.3 The rate the LA is funded on for 3 and 4 year olds has increased by £0.24 from £4.82 to £5.06 and by £0.06 for 2 year olds from £5.67 to £5.73. The increase in 3 & 4 year rate includes the rolling in of the teachers pay and pension grant which was paid as a separate grant in 2022-23 and prior years to Schools. This will be reviewed as part of the consultation as to the best way to allocate this.
- 6.4 The allocation rate for DAF has increased by £28 from £800 to £828. The allocation rate for EYPP has increased by £0.02 from £0.60 to £0.62 per hour per eligible pupil up to a maximum of 570 hours.
- 6.5 Consultation will need to be held with Early Years providers regarding the increased rates and therefore an additional Schools Forum meeting will be required to agree the rates of allocation for this element of funding. A report will be completed for this additional meeting proposed for 14 March 2023 with further information on the funding arrangements for the LA and for providers.
- 6.6 Approval is sought to centrally retain 5% (in line with the operational guidance) of 3 & 4 Year Old funding (£741k based on the current settlement) and £0.14 per hour (as a minimum) of 2 Year Old funding (£71k based in the current settlement).
- 6.7 The centrally retained funding will continue to support:
- Early Education Funding Team – This fully supports the administration of Early Years funding, the annual costs associated with the Servelec IT system which is used to calculate and process the payments to Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent providers.
 - Family Information Services – This supports an Information Officer. This post provides advice, guidance and information to families wishing to access Children's services and was implemented to support the increased demands from the early years extended provision.
 - Early Years Quality Improvement Team – This currently supports 5 Quality Officers which includes specialist SEND Quality Officers and will support a School Advisor for Early Years. Support is primarily in relation to: signposting and promoting the standard 15 hours offer and extended 30 hours offer; OFSTED regulations and standards; practice development and training; safeguarding; and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities related support. The focus of the team going forward is now weighted heavily towards SEND and language development.

- SEN Team – funding support for an Early Years SEN Caseworker as specific support for SEN in early years.
- Social Emotional and Mental Health service – funding support for an Early Year Co-ordinator as specific support in early years.
- Sensory Support – funding support for a Hearing Impaired Teacher as specific support for Early Years.
- Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy). This is aimed at supporting practitioners to build parents' knowledge and confidence so that they can support their children with early language and reading and writing and create a positive early home learning environment. This programme is evidence-based and has been very successful in Oldham at raising GLD. We have run test cohorts in eight primary schools in Tameside and have rolled out the programme to 12 settings and three further schools for the 2021-22 academic year. The funding will be used to bring PVIs and more school nurseries on board with Making it REAL.

6.8 A detailed paper with proposed funding rates, SEN Inclusion Fund and outcome of consultation will be presented at the proposed 14 March 2023 meeting.

7. CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB)

7.1 The Central School Services Block to fund statutory duties the LA undertakes for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:

- Funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
- Funding for ongoing central functions such as admissions which were previously top sliced from the schools block
- Residual funding for historic commitments of which there are none for Tameside MBC

7.2 The total allocation to the LA for 2023-24 is £1.249m. This is based on a per pupil element of £35.81 for ongoing duties (i.e. Admissions, Schools Forum, Copyright Licenses, former ESG duties).

7.3 National Copyright School Licenses are also funded from this block and the amount for 2023-24 is £209k.

7.4 The DSG operational guidance for 2023-24 requires the LA to formally request Schools Forum approval for the central retention of funding for the following:

- School Admissions
- Servicing of Schools Forum
- Contribution to responsibilities that LAs hold for all schools (formally the retained duties element of the ESG)

7.5 The budgets for the above are still being worked on but the costs overall are currently estimated in excess of £1.2m. There is £1.040m available to support these costs, which Schools' Forum is requested to approve.

8. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DE-DELEGATION

8.1 Following the decision by the DfE in 2022-23 to remove the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant, Local Authorities (LAs) were required to seek de-delegation of schools block funding from maintained schools to support any on ongoing LA School Improvement activity costs. As noted last year the transitional grant was available in 2022-23 only so School Improvement will need to be de-delegated in full in 2023-24.

- 8.2 The purpose of the grant was to provide support to local authorities in England for expenditure lawfully incurred relating to local authorities' statutory school improvement functions. This relates to maintained schools in Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the school improvement expectations relating to maintained schools set out on page 36 of the Schools Causing Concern Guidance. In summary, these functions require local authorities to monitor the performance of schools, broker or provide school improvement provision, and intervene as appropriate.
- 8.3 Since 2017, this Grant has been provided to support councils to fulfil their core improvement activities, with the amount received by each council proportionate to the number of maintained schools in their area.
- 8.4 The Department for Education updated the Schools Causing Concern Guidance October 2022 to make it clear that core school improvement activity goes beyond solely exercising formal intervention powers.
- 8.5 In line with the direction of travel of the Schools White Paper 2022, the Government has now fully removed the Grant. This report seeks a decision on de-delegation for School Improvement for 2023/24
- 8.6 In January 2022, Schools Forum agreed to de-delegate 50% of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant. This was in line with the removal of the Grant and the transitional funding arrangement. Schools Forum also supported the request for academies to buy into the offer under an SLA arrangement. Tameside has strong relationships with the whole schools sector. The relationships between maintained schools, academies and the LA are an important part of the success of the schools system in Tameside. All stakeholders are keen to maintain, support and further develop these relationships.

Financial Information

- 8.7 The School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant in the financial year 2021-22 was worth £213k in total. Maintained schools agreed to de-delegate £106k from the Dedicated Schools Grant in 2022-23 and a transitional grant of £97k was received directly from the DfE. The FY 2022-23 per pupil cost was set at £6.12.
- 8.8 Due to the transitional arrangement ending, in 2023-24 the de-delegated cost per pupil will increase to £12.78 per pupil

Why the De-delegation is Important

- 8.9 Since 2018, the model of School Improvement activity in Tameside has not been limited to maintained schools, with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and support being available to any school that may need it. The Council will also invite academies to buy into the School Improvement Service which will ensure that we retain the ability to support the whole sector and retain equity, which has proved so successful in Tameside over the last four to five years.
- 8.10 All schools need to be part of the big picture. Tameside's school improvement model is built on partnerships and relationships. It is collaborative and seeks to engage all schools in a variety of consultative and task and finish groups. Strategy and priority setting is based on full engagement with the Tameside Primary Consortium, Tameside Association of Secondary Headteachers and Special Schools Sector Partnership. It has never been more important that this continues and grows, in the next phase of Government schools policy.
- 8.11 The grant/de-delegation currently funds the work of the Head of Education Improvement and Partnerships, including commissioning and brokering budgets for school improvement.

- 8.12 Education Improvement and Partnerships ensures cohesion across the school system; facilitating working together responsibly between schools and with the local authority. The service provides an infrastructure for the school system, attracting partners and funding to the area, enabling opportunities to develop at a systemic level such as The Ogden Trust and University of Manchester Science partnership, the Education Endowment Foundation and Research School partnership, English and Maths Hubs, Mental Health Support Teams, BeeWell, transitions including SixintoSeven, and Priority Area planning.
- 8.13 The grant/de-delegation supports the LA to meet needs before schools reach a critical point of failure. Monies are used to help support schools and prevent Tameside children from being at risk of attending a school that is less than good, long before being eligible for intervention. This may include commissioned improvement support from an academy trust or funded evidence-based approaches which address priorities agreed with the LA.
- 8.14 In addition to supporting strategic and operational cohesion in the schools system the grant/de-delegation is also intended to support the LA with its school improvement statutory duties and powers of intervention which include:
- Ofsted engagement and liaison
 - Annual categorisation process of primary schools and development of the Primary Standards and Performance Protocol
 - Implementing Schools Causing Concern guidance
 - Brokering and monitoring school-led improvement partnerships e.g. schools at risk of becoming inadequate or double RI
 - Commissioning and facilitating support for RI, Inadequate and category 3 schools
 - Data collection, management, and support outside of the data SLA
 - Statutory moderation for primary schools.