

**Bristol Schools Forum**  
**De-delegation 2023/24**

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Time of meeting:</b>	5.00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	City Hall

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To inform the Schools Forum of the outcome of the de-delegation consultation, which ran from 04<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.
- 1.2 To seek agreement from the maintained primary school members of the Forum to the primary school de-delegated services for 2023/24.
- 1.3 To seek agreement from the maintained secondary school members of the Forum to the secondary school de-delegated services for 2023/24.

**2. Recommendation**

**Schools Forum is invited to:**

- 2.1 Note the outcomes of the consultation on school funding arrangements.**

**Maintained primary school representatives of Schools Forum are invited to:**

- 2.2 Agree to de-delegation of the following services at the amounts per pupil indicated in Table 1 for 2023-24:**
  - a) Employee and Premises Insurance**
  - b) Assessment of eligibility for free school meals**
  - c) Maternity supply cover**
  - d) Schools in financial difficulty**
  - e) Trades Union facility time**
  - f) Education psychology**
  - g) School Improvement Services**

**Maintained secondary school representatives of Schools Forum are invited to:**

**2.3 Agree to de-delegation of the following services at the amounts per pupil indicated in Table 1 for 2023-24:**

- a) Employee and Premises Insurance**
- b) Assessment of eligibility for free school meals**
- c) Maternity supply cover**
- d) Trades Union facility time**
- e) Health and safety roving reps**
- f) Education psychology**
- g) School Improvement Services**

Table 1: de-delegation rates per pupil for primary and secondary schools

	Primary rate £	Secondary rate £
Employee and Premises Insurance	25.52	25.52
FSM Eligibility	1.17	1.17
Maternity Supply Insurance	31.95	46.40
Schools in Financial Difficulty	0.00	n/a
Trade Union Facility time	3.95	3.95
Health and Safety Roving Reps	n/a	0.93
Educational Psychology	5.97	5.97
School Improvement Services	3.64	3.64

### **3. Background**

3.1 Maintained mainstream schools, by majority vote of the Schools Forum in each sector, can opt to de-delegate the funding for their sector. The agreed retention will not be given to maintained schools in the formula and instead the LA will hold the funds centrally for the agreed services and spend the funds on those de-delegating sectors only.

3.2 Decisions on de-delegation are for representatives of each sector's maintained schools to make.

- 3.3 To assist the LA and Schools Forum with determining courses of action for the 2023-24 de-delegation the LA consulted with schools to seek the views of stakeholders.

#### 4. De-delegation in 2022/23

- 4.1 The table below shows the services that Schools Forum voted to de-delegate for 2022/23, and the funding generated for each of those services.

Table 2: De-delegated services and funding in 2022/23

2022-2023 De-delegation	Primary		Secondary	
	Total £'000	Per Pupil	Total £'000	Per Pupil
<b>'Insurance' type Services</b>				
Employee & Premises Insurance	479	<b>31.06</b>	72	<b>39.38</b>
Assessment of Eligibility for free school meals	18	<b>1.14</b>	2	<b>1.14</b>
Maternity Supply Cover	480	<b>31.17</b>	82	<b>45.27</b>
Schools In Financial Difficulty	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TU Facility Time	59	3.85	7	<b>3.85</b>
Health & Safety Roving Reps	n/a	n/a	2	<b>0.91</b>
<b>Services to Schools</b>				
Educational Psychology	88	5.74	10	<b>5.74</b>
<b>Total de-delegated</b>	1,124	<b>72.96</b>	175	<b>96.29</b>

- 4.2 Schools Forum will remember decisions were taken not to de-delegate additional funding for Schools in Financial Difficulty or for H&S Roving Reps in Primary Schools due to the accumulated balances being felt sufficient for 2022/23.
- 4.3 School Forum will be aware that the decision was to de-delegate Employee and Premises Insurance for 2022/23, was agreed ahead of the procurement of new arrangements for Employee and Premises insurance for 2022/23 being finalised. The result of the procurement was that BCC Insurance opted LA Maintained Schools into the ESFA RPA scheme, resulting in cost savings and a partial refund of the de-delegation charge to those schools. De-delegation had been agreed at £31.06 and £39.38 for Primary and Secondary respectively, the actual de-delegation charge following the refund was £25.30 for both Primary and Secondary, being

composed of the £21.00 RPA charge levied by the ESFA plus £2.00 for Engineering Inspections and £2.30 for administration and claims handling.

## 5. De-delegated items 2023/24.

- 5.1 The services in scope for 2023/24 include those that were in scope for 2022/23 plus additionally a new area – School Improvement – following the cessation of the Brokerage Grant to the Local Authority.
- 5.2 There have been a number of changes to the per-pupil de-delegation rates for 2023/24. The Employee & Premises Insurance rate has increased by £0.22p from the final rate for 2022/23, whilst the rates for Free School Meal assessment, Supply Cover, TU Facility Time, H&S Reps have increased by 2.5%. The rate for Education Psychology has been increased in line with the increase to the day rate charged from September 2022 (3.92%). Schools in Financial Difficulty has been listed for de-delegation again, but at nil contribution for 2023/24 due to accumulated funds still available.
- 5.3 Table 3 provides some detail on each of the areas of de-delegation.

Table 3: Areas of de-delegation

<p><b>Employee &amp; Premises Insurance</b> This funds insurance cover as arranged by the local authority. If delegated, schools would need to assure the LA that cover arranged by the school (if not bought back) is fit for purpose. Pooling the funding ensures proper cover and allows schools' to avoid bureaucracy.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased from final 2022/23 charge, but remains lower than original charge.</p>
<p><b>Assessment of eligibility for free school meals</b> This funding enables the service to schools for the checking of free school meal eligibility.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased 2.5% from 2022/23</p>
<p><b>Maternity Supply Cover</b> Supports schools by funding the costs incurred covering staff taking maternity / paternity leave or staff on adoption leave.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased 2.5% from 2022/23</p>
<p><b>Schools In Financial Difficulty for Primary schools</b> Provides support to schools in or forecasting a deficit. Access to the support is generally dependent on a school producing an agreed Recovery Plan. The use of funds is directed by the head of school partnerships. For information: there is currently available balance of £335k on this fund.</p>	<p>No contribution proposed for 2023/24</p>
<p><b>Trade Union Facility Time Fund</b> Employers have a statutory obligation to release trade union representatives for representation in cases. The facilities fund held by Bristol City Council is used to remunerate</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased 2.5% from 2022/23</p>

<p>schools that release their teachers who are TU representatives to carry out casework for their members. In the absence of any facility fund, maintained school bear the cost of releasing staff. For information: there is currently available a balance of £293k available to be used for this purpose.</p>	
<p><b>Health &amp; Safety Roving Reps in Secondary schools</b> "Roving" reps are safety representatives who are appointed by TUs to cover multiple school sites. Their work includes effective consultation with employees in relation to employee health and safety issues. Compared to previous years, there are fewer safety representatives, and the cost of training is reduced. School head teachers retain overall responsibility, with the TU rep acting on the Head's behalf.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased 2.5% from 2022/23</p>
<p><b>Educational Psychology (EP)</b> The Education Psychology Service provides professional advice to young people, families and educational settings. The de-delegated funding supports the delivery of EP visits to schools to discuss and identify vulnerable children and young people, and support a robust graduated response to needs including cost effectiveness. This is in addition to the Educational Psychology work in to the SEN assessment process, paid for by the LA as a statutory responsibility.</p>	<p>Per-pupil charge increased 3.92% from 2022/23</p>
<p><b>School Improvement Service (NEW)</b> The ending of the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant for 2023-23 reduces the ability of the service to support School Improvement in schools. In order to maintain a consistent service to maintained mainstream schools for 2023-2024 the service is seeking a contribution of £60,000 from this sector.</p>	

- 5.4 The de-delegation consultation was launched 04<sup>th</sup> October and ran for six weeks to 14<sup>th</sup> November. The de-delegation consultation was communicated to schools through the Service Director for Education, Skills regular newsletter, email and through school forum members.
- 5.5 This consultation sought school stakeholder views on the de-delegation of funding from mainstream schools for specific services, it was open to maintained mainstream schools only to respond.
- 5.6 Ten of a possible 42 primary schools responded, whilst both of the two eligible secondary schools responded. The response to de-delegation is shown in the tables below.

Table 4: Primary de-delegation

<b>Service</b>	<b>Votes Pool</b>	<b>Votes Delegate</b>	<b>Votes: No indication</b>	<b>% Pool</b>	<b>% Delegate</b>	<b>% No indication</b>
Employee and Premises Insurance	10	0	0	100	0	0
FSM Eligibility	10	0	0	100	0	0
Maternity Supply Insurance	10	0	0	100	0	0
Schools in Financial Difficulty	7	3	0	70	30	0
Trade Union Facility time	8*	2	0	80	20	0
Education Psychology	8**	2	0	80	20	0
School Improvement Service	8	2	0	80	20	0

*\*one school voted pool but requested that carried forward balance needs to be looked at.*

*\*\*one school voted pool but requested that VF should be investigated.*

Table 5: Secondary de-delegation

<b>Service</b>	<b>Votes Pool</b>	<b>Votes Delegate</b>	<b>Votes: No preference</b>	<b>% Pool</b>	<b>% Delegate</b>	<b>% No preference</b>
Employee and Premises Insurance	1	1	0	50	50	0
FSM Eligibility	2	0	0	100	0	0
Maternity Supply Insurance	2	0	0	100	0	0
Trade Union Facility time	1	0	1	50	0	50
H&S Roving Reps	1	0	1	50	0	50
Education Psychology	1	1	0	50	50	0
School Improvement service	0	2	0	0	100	0

5.7 Comments received in response to the questions are shown below:

### Primary

Trade Union Facility Time:

- *Need to look into balance carried forward again.*

Education Psychology

- *Value for money should be investigated.*

### Secondary

Trade Union Facility Time:

- *The carry forward has increased from last year. How do we access this money?*

Health and Safety Roving Reps:

- *Never seen evidence of this*

5.8 The Schools In Financial Difficulty and the Trade Union funds carried forward surplus balances, of £335k and £293k, into 2022-23 respectively.

5.9 So far in 2022-23, there have been no charges to the SIFD fund, whilst the TU funds have paid £40k.

5.10 There were approximately 15,400 primary age pupils in maintained schools in 2022/23, whilst there were approximately 1,800 secondary age pupils. Assuming these pupil numbers continue into 2023-24, if School Forum supports further contributions via de-delegation, for TU Facility Time this would contribute £66k to the fund for 2023-24. No contribution is being sought for the SIFD fund for 2023-24. These funds are ringfenced and reserved for activity in maintained schools; activity in academy schools is charged separately.

5.11 **The Local Authority recommendation to Schools Forum is that all of the services are de-delegated to maintained schools in 2023/24. De-delegation supports the provision of a coherent core offer by the Council to all maintained schools.** This is particularly important when

unplanned issues arise in a school and enables support to be provided rapidly and without the need to agree terms of engagement. Whilst the LA recognises that in any particular given year not all schools will access all services to the same degree, funding these services enables all maintained schools to benefit at a time of need.