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## Briefing note

**To:** Schools Forum                      **Author:** Jon Ritchie, Cofely

**Date:** 9 December 2015

**Title of Briefing:** Centrally retained and de-delegated items

### Background

At the meeting on 8 July 2015 Schools Forum voted on a number of proposals relating to centrally retained and de-delegated items. Whilst these items will be formally approved at the January meeting each year, the report was brought to the July meeting in response to a suggestion that Forum considered these items well in advance of the final decision. This was agreed as being good practice so it would allow the impact of any changes to be assessed on the Authority's budget.

Schools Forum is asked to reconfirm its intended position, in advance of the January meeting when they will be formally agreed.

### Current position

Below is an extract from the minutes of 8 July 2015 meeting, detailing the outcome of the vote. The full report setting out the background to the decision can be found [here](#)

*Voting to continue the levels of funding proposed took place as follows. Voting was completed on a named basis for certain items and the names will be retained by officers for future reference if required and will be available on request by any interested parties:*

<b>Budgets Proposed to be held centrally – voting to include all Schools Forum members</b>					
<b>Budgets historically used in support of early years provision</b>					
<i>Retained 2015/16 £1,300,000</i>			<i>Proposed 2016/17 £1,084,200</i>		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Budget to fund the Schools Support Service</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £652,508			Proposed 2016/17 £652,508		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Budget to support vulnerable schools. Allocations to individual schools made annually by School Improvement staff</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £52,044			Proposed 2016/17 £52,044		
<b>Agreed, no named vote was required</b>					
<b>Budget to improve quality and variety in school meals</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £307,723			Proposed 2016/17 £0		
<b>No longer included as a centrally retained item</b>					
<b>Budget to maintain High Borrans Outdoor Education</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £95,000			Proposed 2016/17 £95,000		
<b>Agreed to be revisited annually, no named vote was required</b>					
<b>Budget for Education Improvement Partnership (secondary)</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £100,398			Proposed 2016/17 £100,398		
<b>Yes</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Budget to support the informational requests of the Schools Forum and improved budgetary awareness across all schools</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £30,125			Proposed 2016/17 £30,125		
<b>Agreed, no named vote was required</b>					
<b>Contribution to on-going pension costs from historic decisions to allow teachers to leave schools prematurely</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £624,951			Proposed 2016/17 £624,951		
<b>Agreed, no named vote was required</b>					
<b>Budget for costs associated with de-commissioned buildings</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £30,000			Proposed 2016/17 £30,000		
<b>Agreed, no named vote was required</b>					
<b>School Admissions Service</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £141,570			Proposed 2016/17 £141,570		
<b>Agreed, no named vote was required</b>					
<b>DSG contribution to Home to School Transport costs</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £100,000			Proposed 2016/17 £100,000		
<b>Agreed, no named vote was required</b>					
<b>Support for Schools with Falling Rolls</b>					
Retained 2015/16 £250,000			Proposed 2016/17 £250,000		
<b>Agreed, no named vote was required</b>					

<b><i>De-delegated Items – voting to include maintained schools members only – by phase if required – no named vote was required</i></b>		
<b><i>Budget to support mainstream maintained schools in financial difficulty</i></b>		
<i>Total de-delegated 2015/167</i>	<i>£128,749</i>	<b><i>Agreed</i></b>
<b><i>Support for vulnerable Headteachers for those incidents where independent support and advice is necessary</i></b>		
<i>Total de-delegated 2015/16</i>	<i>£37,571</i>	<b><i>Agreed</i></b>
<b><i>Support for minority ethnic pupils and underachieving groups (EMTAS)</i></b>		
<i>Total de-delegated 2015/16</i>	<i>£366,194</i>	<b><i>Agreed</i></b>
<b><i>Assessment of free school meals eligibility</i></b>		
<i>Total de-delegated 2015/16</i>	<i>£36,196</i>	<b><i>Agreed</i></b>
<b><i>The current central scheme to cover staff costs – supply cover, ie maternity/paternity/adoption coverscheme, inc Union facility time costs and Jury Service</i></b>		
<i>Total de-delegated 2015/16</i>	<i>£566,540</i>	<b><i>Agreed</i></b>

### **Recommendation**

Schools Forum is asked to reconsider this matter and identify any issues that have arisen since the July meeting, especially where that may result in a different conclusion being reached with any of these items.

Subject to discussions at this meeting, it may be necessary to vote on individual lines. If that is the case, the centrally retained items are a Green Vote (ie school members plus the early years representative) and de-delegated items are Red and Purple votes (with the option to vote separately by phase if required).