

DE-DELEGATIONS FROM MAINTAINED PRIMARY SCHOOL BUDGETS

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

Date: 16th January 2015

From: Stephen Howarth – Schools Funding Accountant

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Schools finance regulations set out certain circumstances under which amounts can be deducted from maintained schools' budgets with the approval of sector representatives and Schools Forum. These 'de-delegations' are compulsorily deducted after schools' formula funding has been calculated, enabling schools to see their actual contribution to certain centrally managed services.
- 1.2. De-delegations are intended to facilitate sharing of risk, reduced administration costs and economies of scale. The amounts being recovered through de-delegations are gradually reducing as schools convert to academies, and so increases in de-delegation levels can be necessary to keep total funding levels static.
- 1.3. De-delegations must be reviewed and authorised on an annual basis. No new de-delegations are proposed, but changes to unit values are needed for some. These are based on the October 2014 census data-sets provided by the Education Funding Agency, and take into account an estimate for academy conversions in 2015/16 (where academies convert in Summer term they will have 7/12 of the de-delegation returned).
- 1.4. Provisional changes to de-delegations were discussed with Cambridgeshire Primary Heads (CPH) Finance members in October 2014, with agreement given to continue all de-delegations and to proceed on the bases outlined in section 3 overleaf. Other than in the case of the Cambridgeshire Racial Equality and Diversity Service (CREDS), where changes are required it was agreed to keep per pupil and per school amounts proportionate.

2.0 CURRENT DE-DELEGATIONS

2.1. For reference, the final de-delegations for 2014/15 are:

Item	De-delegation in 2014/15	Total de-delegation funding
CREDS	£21 per pupil and £75 per EAL pupil	£1,064,876.87
The Key website	£307 per school and 50p per pupil	£73,259.96
Copyright subscriptions	£30 per school and 65p per pupil	£30,706.96
Free School Meals Eligibility	£4.40 per FSM pupil	£19,811.78
Trade Union Time	£1.10 per pupil	£43,089.47
Insurance (material damage, theft and public liability)	£16.32 per pupil	£639,291.12
Maternity Scheme	£5.90 per pupil	£231,116.27
Schools in difficulty	£2.10 per pupil	£82,261.73

3.0 PROPOSED DE-DELEGATIONS FOR 2015/16

- 3.1. **Cambridgeshire Racial Equality and Diversity Service** – Whilst some savings in the Service have been identified, it was agreed to continue with a relatively large de-delegation, but to take more per English as an additional Language (EAL) pupil and less per pupil. This was agreed with the proviso that the service looks to rationalise its service model in future years. This results in values of £12 per pupil and £142.50 per EAL pupil.
- 3.2. **The Key for School Leaders Subscription** – Agreement has been reached with the providers of this website not to increase costs in 2015/16. Accordingly no increase in de-delegation is needed.
- 3.3. **Copyright Subscriptions** – We are awaiting clarification from the DfE as to which copyright subscriptions will be top-sliced from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and which will need to be purchased locally. If the 2014/15 arrangement continues, we forecast a 4% increase in cost, requiring a de-delegation of £31 per school and £0.67 per pupil. Should some of these subscriptions be switched to a top-slice arrangement, we propose to reduce the de-delegation accordingly.
- 3.4. **Free School Meals (FSM) Eligibility** – An increase is necessary to ensure that costs of staff pay awards can be met. A de-delegation of £4.65 per FSM pupil should be sufficient.
- 3.5. **Trade Union Time** – The current de-delegation is expected to provide sufficient funds to continue with the current arrangements, provided there is an adequate level of buy-back by the secondaries and primary academies.
- 3.6. **Insurance** – The Council's Insurance team have provided an estimate of the 2015/16 insurance premium, which will require a de-delegation of £16.69. The increase in costs is due to a deterioration of the claims history, particularly on the public liability insurance.

- 3.7. **Maternity** – It is currently forecast that the 2014/15 maternity scheme will be slightly underspent, and as such no increase will be necessary to continue at the current rate into 2015/16.
- 3.8. **Schools in Financial Difficulty** – Funding has so far been provided to three schools, totalling £23k. There is less scope for providing assistance to schools than in the past, and so assuming calls on this fund remain consistent for the year, we expect it to be underspent. As such no increase will be needed to continue the scheme next year.
- 3.9. Based on the stated rates, it is forecast that the de-delegation position for 2015/16 will be:

Item	De-delegation in 2015/16	De-delegation amount in 2015/16	Change in amount from 2014/15
CREDS	£12 per pupil and £142.50 per EAL pupil	£916,558.51	-£148,318.36
The Key website	£307 per school and 50p per pupil	£72,509.31	-£750.65
Copyright subscriptions	£31 per school and 67p per pupil	£31,164.42	£457.46
Free School Meals Eligibility	£4.65 per FSM pupil	£20,855.26	£1,043.48
Trade Union Time	£1.10 per pupil	£42,217.11	-£872.36
Insurance (material damage, theft and public liability)	£16.69 per pupil	£640,548.71	£1,257.59
Maternity Scheme	£5.90 per pupil	£226,437.23	-£4,679.04
Schools in difficulty	£2.10 per pupil	£80,596.30	-£1,665.43

4.0 UNDERSPEND OF 2014/15 DE-DELEGATIONS

- 4.1. It is likely that some de-delegated funding for the maternity scheme and the schools in difficulty fund will remain unspent. Schools Forum agreed in December 2013 that any unspent de-delegated funding ought to be carried forward, and it is anticipated that some will be used to off-set pressures in these areas, rather than increase de-delegations in 2015/16.
- 4.2. An early forecast suggests an underspend of £20k on the maternity scheme, and £15k on the 'Schools in difficulty fund'.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Maintained Primary representatives on Schools Forum are asked to agree to the continuation of the above de-delegations set out in the table at 3.9 and to agree the proposed rates (subject to final confirmation in respect of Copyright Licences).

Background Documents : None