

REPORT TO SCHOOLS FORUM

11 January 2024

Item 7
TITLE OF REPORT: Former Education Services Grant

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request Schools Forums approval to centrally retain the former retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG) which was mainstreamed into the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from April 2017.

Background

2. The former ESG retained duties funding rate for local authorities is a flat rate of £15 per pupil.

The broad duties covered by the retained duties funding relate to the following areas:

- Director of children's services and personal staff for director;
 - Planning for the education service as a whole;
 - Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education;
 - Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares;
 - Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula;
 - Internal audit and other tasks related to the authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under Section 151 of LGA 1972 except duties specifically related to maintained schools;
 - Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues;
 - Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary bodies;
 - Standing Advisory Committees for Religious Education (SACREs); and
 - Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools.
3. In addition to the retained duties above, local authorities will also have duties that are required to be performed for maintained schools only, which have not been funded since September 2017.
 4. The retained duties funding is calculated using the total headcount of pupils in primary and secondary schools contained in the December settlement.
 5. The DSG allocation received in December 2023 was based on 24,008 pupils and the retained duties element is calculated $£15 \times 24,008 = £360,120$.

6. The current regulations state that ESG retained duties funding (now included in the DSG) requires Schools Forum approval for the local authority to retain this funding centrally.

Proposal

7. That Schools Forum approves the central retention of the allocation for retained duties.

Recommendations

8. It is recommended that Schools Forum approves the central retention of funding allocated for retained duties.

For the following reasons:

9. To provide funding to enable the local authority to carry out their retained duties.

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