

Local Consultation – School Improvement Services 2023-24

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Schools Forum with the results of the recent consultation with maintained schools relating to.
 - removal of the *'Local authority monitoring and brokering grant'* 2023-24
2. The survey results will help to inform Schools Forum decisions for setting the budgets for the 2023-24 financial year.

Background to Consultation

3. The Department for Education (DfE) released its consultation *'Reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded'* in late October 2021 which had a closing date for responses of the 26th of November 2021.
4. The two key questions which formed the mainstay of the DfE consultation were to:
 - a. **Remove** the Local Authority Monitoring & Brokering Grant (LAMB), which is currently allocated to local authorities to support school improvement activities; and
 - b. **Make provisions** within the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations for the financial year (FY) 2022-23 to allow local authorities to fund all their school improvement activity (including all core school improvement activities) via de-delegation from schools' budget shares.
5. The LAMB has been provided to local authorities since 2017, to help fulfil their core improvement activities, which was based upon the number of maintained schools.
6. The proposals from the DfE, to reduce the grant by 50% in 2022-23, with full removal in the 2023-24 year were approved, following the consultation. As a result, Wiltshire's funding fell from.
 - a. £459,000 in the 2021-22 year
 - b. £229,500 in the 2022-23 year
 - c. £0 for the 2023-24 year

The Wiltshire Consultation for 2022-23

7. Local authorities were provided with the opportunity to fund improvement services through either de-delegation of maintained schools' budgets or on a traded basis.
8. To provide Schools Forum with a steer, a local consultation was arranged to provide a basket of options for potential funding of the loss of the LAMB grant.
9. Maintained members of Schools Forum agreed to de-delegate monies from their budgets, to cover the drop in funding for the LAMB. This de-delegation was agreed to ensure that School Effectiveness service provided to maintained schools would not be compromised.

The Local Consultation 2023-24

10. To provide Schools Forum with information, a local consultation was arranged to provide several options, with schools being asked to rank each of the options in order of priority. A copy of the consultation is held at Appendix 1.
11. The consultation was open to all maintained schools and a total of 11 responses were received, which can be broken down as follows.
- 1 secondary schools
 - 10 primary schools
12. Of the schools that responded, the results can be summarised as detailed in the table below.

Option	Impact	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Schools don't fund any loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £459k	0	1	0	0	8
Schools fund 50% loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £229.5k	4	2	0	5	
Schools fund 75% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £114,8k	2	3	6	0	
Schools fund 87.5% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £57.3k	0	5	4	1	
Schools fund 100% of LAMB	Existing service maintained	5	0		4	1

13. This data will inform the decision making around the 2023-24 budget for school improvement services. A breakdown of individual responses is detailed at Appendix 2.

Proposals

14. Schools Forum is asked to note the local consultation responses in relation to the LAMB services for the 2023-24 financial year.
15. Maintained members of Schools Forum are asked to decide on the de-delegation of funding for LAMB services, in accordance with the consultation responses.

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Maintained Schools Local Consultation

DfE removal of the ‘School improvement, monitoring and brokering grant’ 2023-24

Background

As you will know, the Department for Education are removing the Local Authority School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokering Grant (LAMB) for Wiltshire maintained schools. Having already removed 50% of the grant in the 2022-23 year, the grant funding will be removed in its entirety in 2023-24.

Maintained schools were consulted last year to canvass their opinions and thoughts regarding funding the reduction in the grant from their core school funding. It was overwhelmingly agreed by maintained schools that they would prefer to fund the reduction in the grant rather than see the support provided through the School Effectiveness team significantly reduced. Funding the reduction in the grant equated to £9.40 per pupil.

For the 2023-24 financial year, we are once again consulting with maintained schools about funding the reduction of the LAMB.

What is the purpose of the LAMB?

The key objective of the LAMB is to provide funding to local authorities to

- Monitor the performance of maintained schools
- Broker school improvement
- Intervene and support, as appropriate

What services are funded by the LAMB?

All of the school improvement services that you currently receive from the School Effectiveness Team will be impacted if the grant is removed. The current support funded from the grant includes.

- All the support you need from the School Effectiveness Team
- School Improvement Advisors
- Support from Regional Leads
- Tracking and performance monitoring and reporting
- Intensive support for schools when needed
- Evaluations of schools and Ofsted readiness

Without support from schools, the current supportive and preventative approach provided by the School Effectiveness Team will no longer be possible and posts within the service would be deleted.

What does the funding of the grant look like?

The grant has been reduced as detailed below

<u>Year</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
2021-22	£459,000	0%
2022-23	£229,500	50%
2023-24	£0	100%

There are 23,976 pupils attending a maintained school in Wiltshire, based upon the October 2021 census. Using the maintained pupil numbers, the options for funding the reduction in the LAMB through de-delegation per pupil could be

<u>Options</u>	<u>Cost to Schools</u>	<u>Amount per pupil</u>
Schools don't fund any loss of LAMB	£0	£0
Schools fund 50% loss of LAMB	£229,500	£9.57
Schools fund 75% of LAMB	£344,250	£14.35
Schools fund 87.5% of LAMB	£401,625	£16.75
Schools fund 100% of LAMB	£459,000	£19.14

What are you being asked to do?

To plan for the proposed full removal of the grant, we need to consult with you to collect your views on the level of service you would require from the School Effectiveness Team moving forward.

Based upon the options in the above table which sets out the cost per pupil, schools are asked to consider which of the options, would be their preference. The decision should take account of the financial impact for the school alongside the loss of Support from the School Effectiveness Team.

Your views are vitally important to help inform the maintained representatives of Schools Forum, who will be required to make decisions on behalf of all maintained schools.

Please rank your preferred options below in order of preference, where 1 is your preferred option and 5 is your least favoured option? (Schools are currently funding at the 50% of LAMB)

<u>Options</u>	<u>Impact in School Effectiveness</u>	<u>Cost to Schools</u>	<u>Amount per pupil</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Schools don't fund any loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £459k	£0	£0	
Schools fund 50% loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £229.5k	£229,500	£9.57	
Schools fund 75% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £114,8k	£344,250	£14.35	
Schools fund 87.5% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £57.3k	£401,625	£16.75	
Schools fund 100% of LAMB	Existing service maintained	£459,000	£19.14	

Please respond to the consultation by sending your completed response to absupport@wiltshire.gov.uk by Wednesday 5th October 2022

Appendix 2 – Summary of Responses

Option	Impact	Amount	Per Pupil	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Primary
Schools don't fund any loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £459k	£0	£0	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	2		5
Schools fund 50% loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £229.5k	£229,500	£9.57	4	4	2	1	1	2	4	4	1	1	4
Schools fund 75% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £114,8k	£344,250	£14.35	3	3	1		2	1	3	3	3	2	3
Schools fund 87.5% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £57.3k	£401,625	£16.75	2	2	3		3	3	2	2	4	3	2
Schools fund 100% of LAMB	Existing service maintained	£459,000	£19.14	1	1	4		4	4	1	1	5	4	1