

## **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 *'School improvement, 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.
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 of 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 were to reduce the grant by 50% in 2022-23, with full removal in the 2023-24 year. Local authorities have had the opportunity to fund improvement services through either de-delegation or on a traded basis.
7. For the 2022-23 year, maintained schools members of Schools Forum agreed to fund the loss of 50% of the LAMB grant through de-delegation and would consult colleagues once again before any decision would be taken for the 2023-24 year.

### **The Local Consultation**

8. In order to provide Schools Forum with a steer for the 2023-24 year, a local consultation was arranged to provide maintained schools with the opportunity to express their preference regarding a contribution to support the loss of LAMB funding. A copy of the consultation is held at Appendix 1.
9. The consultation was open to all maintained schools and a total of 39 responses were received (up from 28 for 2022-23), which can be broken down as follows.
  - 4 secondary schools
  - 34 primary schools
  - 1 special school
10. Of the schools that responded, the results can be summarised as detailed in the tables below;

All Schools	Impact	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Schools don't fund any loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £459k	5	7	1	1	23
Schools fund 50% loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £229.5k	11	8	2	18	0
Schools fund 75% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £114,8k	3	5	30	0	0
Schools fund 87.5% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £57.3k	4	16	5	13	0
Schools fund 100% of LAMB	Existing service maintained	16	2	0	6	14

Primary	Impact	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Schools don't fund any loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £459k	4	5	1	0	22
Schools fund 50% loss of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £229.5k	9	7	1	17	0
Schools fund 75% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £114,8k	3	4	26	0	0
Schools fund 87.5% of LAMB	Reduction in Services - £57.3k	3	15	5	10	0
Schools fund 100% of LAMB	Existing service maintained	15	2	0	6	10

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

11. This data will inform the decision making around the 2023-24 budget for school improvement services. The Department for Education have confirmed that any commitment for funding to fund School Improvement services will come under the de-delegation methodology.

### **Proposals**

12. Schools Forum is asked to note the local consultation responses in relation to the school improvement services for the 2023-24 financial year.

13. Schools Forum is asked to consider the making of an 'in principle' decisions in accordance with the consultation responses and discussions with colleagues in maintained schools.

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## Appendix 1 – Future Funding of School Improvement - Consultation

Please rank the options below in order of priority, where 1 is your preferred option and 5 is your least favoured option?

### **What are you being asked to do?**

In order 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.***

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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)***

<b><u>Options</u></b>	<b><u>Impact in School Effectiveness</u></b>	<b><u>Cost to Schools</u></b>	<b><u>Amount per pupil</u></b>	<b><u>Rank</u></b>
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	