

DfE Consultation – School Improvement Brokerage and Monitoring Grant

Purpose of the Report

1. To share the DfE's consultation around School Improvement brokerage and monitoring grant.

Main Considerations

2. The DfE issued a consultation on 28th April 2021 regarding the future funding levels and applying new conditions to the grant. The deadline for this consultation was 26th May 2021.
3. The questions can be found in Appendix 1.
4. The local authority responded to the survey highlighting the following major points:
 - a. Any additional responsibilities without funding will dilute the ability to support all pupils and schools
 - b. Although numbers of maintained schools have reduced from 153 in 2017-18 to 126 in 20-21, the grant is used to support all schools and therefore reductions should not be made on a straight-line basis.
 - c. A reduction in grant or, an increased in conditions will mean school support will need to be prioritised and current support will be impacted.
5. The £0.531M School improvement brokering and monitoring grant currently received allows the local authority to divert uncommitted central schools services block to support the high needs block. A grant reduction or, increased responsibility or, both may mean this can no longer take place and / or funded support services currently on offer to schools would look different or, cease.
6. Alternatively, voting maintained sector members of schools forum could, in future budgets vote to set an amount to support school improvement under "education functions."

Proposals

7. Schools Forum are asked to note the DfE's consultation, the local authority response and future risks around the funding and provision of School Improvement.

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