

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

9th December 2021

Local Consultation – School Improvement Services 2022-23

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*’ 2022-23 and 2023-24
2. The survey results will help to inform Schools Forum decisions for setting the budgets for the 2022-23 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 with a closing date for responses of the 26th November 2021.
4. Colleagues from the Schools and SEN Working Group met to discuss a response to the consultation which was shared with schools in November 2021. All schools, governors and other stakeholders were encouraged to respond.
5. The two key questions which formed the mainstay of the DfE consultation were to:
 - a. **Remove** the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant (SIMB), 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.
6. The SIMB has been provided to local authorities since 2017, to help fulfil their core improvement activities, which was based upon the number of maintained schools.
7. The proposals from the DfE are to reduce the grant by 50% in 2022-23, with full removal in the 2023-24 year. Local authorities would have the opportunity to fund improvement services through either de-delegation or on a traded basis.

The Local Consultation

8. In order to provide Schools Forum with a steer, a local consultation was arranged to provide a basket of 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.
9. The consultation was open to all maintained schools and a total of 28 responses were received, which can be broken down as follows.
 - 2 secondary schools
 - 25 primary schools
 - 1 special school

10. Of the schools that responded, the results can be summarised as detailed in the table below;

Scoring	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
First preference	27	0	1	0
Second preference	1	24	2	1
Third preference	0	2	14	8
Fourth preference	0	1	9	16
TOTAL	28	27	26	25

11. This data will inform the decision making around the 2022-23 budget for school improvement services. A breakdown of individual responses is detailed at Appendix 2.

Proposals

12. Schools Forum is asked to note the local consultation responses in relation to the school improvement services for the 2022-23 financial year.

13. Schools Forum is asked to consider the making of an 'in principle' decisions in accordance with the consultation responses as below;

- ***Pending the outcome of DfE consultation, funding to be de-delegated in the 2022-23 year, based upon the removal of 50% of the SIMB grant, using Key Stage Funding Weighting or not.***
- ***In the event of the SIMB grant not being reduced, any de-delegated funding to be passed back to 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 4 is your least favoured option?

Options	Detail	Rank																				
Option 1	<p>To retain the status quo.</p> <p>The DfE continue to appropriately fund local authorities for core activity or, to transfer the grant into the central school services block to allow local authorities and Schools Forum to have local control to respond to local need.</p>																					
Option 2	<p>To fully de-delegate funding for School Improvement services.</p> <p>(Maintained schools would de-delegate funding from their school budgets to fund School Improvement services)</p> <p>(Academy schools could access School Improvement services on a fully traded basis.)</p> <p><i>There were 25,072 pupils attending a maintained school in Wiltshire in the October 2021 census. On this basis, de-delegation per pupil could be:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2"><i>NOR no weighting across sector (per pupil)</i></th> <th colspan="2"><i>NOR with Key Stage Funding weighting (per pupil)</i></th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Primary</th> <th>Secondary</th> <th>Primary</th> <th>Secondary</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>22-23 (50% grant removed)</td> <td>£9.39</td> <td>£9.39</td> <td>£8.88</td> <td>£13.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23-24 and thereafter (100% grant removed)</td> <td>£18.79</td> <td>£18.79</td> <td>£17.76</td> <td>£26.28</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<i>NOR no weighting across sector (per pupil)</i>		<i>NOR with Key Stage Funding weighting (per pupil)</i>			Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	22-23 (50% grant removed)	£9.39	£9.39	£8.88	£13.14	23-24 and thereafter (100% grant removed)	£18.79	£18.79	£17.76	£26.28	
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Option 3	<p>Cease LA School Improvement Services funded by the grant.</p> <p>This means that the current supportive and preventative approach, such as the School Improvement Adviser programme,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - which reduces the need to exercise formal intervention powers, - ensures that rapid progress is made, - pupils receive the <i>suitable education</i> they deserve <p>will no longer be possible.</p> <p>Posts within the School Improvement service will therefore be deleted.</p> <p>(All support to academies is fully chargeable.)</p>																					
Option 4	<p>Secretary of State to override a local Schools Forum Decision</p> <p>For the Secretary of State for Education to override any local Schools Forum decision not to de-delegate and impose de-delegation for School Improvement services, at the amounts detailed in Option 2.</p>																					

Please respond to the consultation by sending your completed response to absupport@wiltshire.gov.uk by Monday 6th December 2021

Appendix 2 – Summary of Responses

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
	Ranking			
School 1	2	4	1	3
School 2	1	2	4	3
School 3	1	2	3	4
School 4	1	2	3	4
School 5	1	2	3	4
School 6	1	2	4	3
School 7	1	2	3	4
School 8	1	2	4	3
School 9	1	2	3	4
School 10	1	2	3	4
School 11	1	2	4	3
School 12	1	2	3	4
School 13	1	2	4	3
School 14	1	2	3	4
School 15	1	2	3	4
School 16	1	*2/3	4	*2/3
School 17	1	2	3	4
School 18	1	2	3	4
School 19	1	3	4	2
School 20	1	2	4	3
School 21	1	2		
School 22	1	2	4	4
School 23	1	2	3	4
School 24	1	2	3	4
School 25	1	3	2	4
School 26	1	2	3	4
School 27	1		2	
School 28	1	2		

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