



Schools Forum

Date: 5 November 2020

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Venue: Virtual via MS Teams

Item

Public

Paper

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CENTRAL RETENTION OF DSG FROM APRIL 2021 CONSULTATION

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Summary

This information paper is sharing the consultation documentation that is going out to all maintained mainstream schools on the central retention of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) from April 2021. The consultation is being launched on 6 November 2020 and will run until the close of business on Friday 27 November 2020.

The responses to the consultation will be presented to Schools Forum at their meeting on 3 December 2020, with Forum required to make decisions on de-delegation and top-slicing for centrally retained services for the financial year 2021-22.

Recommendation

This report is for information only.

REPORT

1. In 2013-14 school funding reforms required increased delegation to maintained schools and academies. Regulations were introduced to allow maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools the option to de-delegate certain delegated budgets to be held and managed centrally, subject to a Schools Forum decision by the representatives of each sector. De-delegation does not apply to academies, special schools or pupil referral units
2. From 2017-18, Schools Forums have been able to agree to de-delegate further funding for additional school improvement provision for maintained schools.
3. In addition, maintained mainstream primary and secondary schools can agree to a top-slice to their delegated funding, to allow for the central retention of funding for statutory services for maintained schools provided by the local authority, previously funded from general duties Education Services Grant (ESG), which

was removed in September 2017. Top-slicing is also subject to a Schools Forum decision by the representatives of each sector.

4. The consultation documentation, made up of a briefing paper and a response form, are appended to this report for information. The consultation is being launched on 6 November 2020. Response forms are required to be returned by Friday 27 November 2020, to inform a report that will be presented to Schools Forum at their meeting on Thursday 3 December 2020. Forum will be required to make decisions on de-delegation and top-slicing for individual centrally retained services for the financial year 2021-22 at this meeting.