

**Report to:** East Sussex Schools' Forum

**Date of meeting:** 12 September 2025

**Report By:** Director of Children's Services

**Title:** De-delegating budgets for Primary and Secondary maintained schools

**Purpose:** To advise members of Schools' Forum which budgets were de-delegated by schools in 2025/26 and seek approval on de-delegated budgets for 2026/27.

**Recommendations:**

1. The Primary and Secondary maintained Schools' Forum Representatives are asked to decide which services should be provided centrally by the Authority for 2026/27.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Since 2013/14 the Department for Education (DfE) has required that Schools' Forum agree to de-delegate budgets for certain services provided centrally by the Local Authority (LA). The DfE have confirmed that this arrangement will continue for financial year 2025/26.
- 1.2 The funding is automatically delegated to Academies who can choose to access some of the services by purchasing from East Sussex Services to Schools or source services from other providers.
- 1.3 The services to be considered for de-delegation in 2026/27 are shown below and Schools' Forum can agree to de-delegate a service in 2026/27 where it chose not to in 2025/26.
  - Contingency
  - Behaviour Support Services (please see appendix B)
  - Support for ethnic minority pupils (please see appendix B)
  - Administration of free school meals
  - Jury service and union business
  - Headteacher Partnership (please see appendix C)
- 1.4 For 2025/26, the following decisions were agreed at Schools' Forum on de-delegated services.

	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
	De-delegated in 2025/26	De-delegated in 2025/26
Contingency	Yes	Yes
Behaviour Support Services	Yes	No
<i>Support for ethnic minority pupils*</i>	Yes	No
Administration of Free school meals	Yes	Yes
Jury service and union business	Yes	Yes
Head Teacher Partnership	Yes	Yes

\*subject to a 2 year commitment for 2024/25

- 1.5 Only members of the Schools' Forum representing maintained primary and secondary schools are entitled to vote on the 2026/27 proposals. In accordance with regulations, representatives of each phase will vote separately, however it is possible that a decision not to de-delegate in one phase may affect the viability of provision overall and the withdrawal of the service for all phases.

## **2. The Services**

- 2.1 Descriptions of the services which can be provided centrally to maintained schools are set out below in Appendix A B and C.
- 2.2 The De-delegated funding for 2025/26 to maintained schools for these services is summarised in Appendix D.
- 2.3 The calculation of amounts to be de-delegated from each school must be linked to factors within the funding formula. The calculations, applied in 2025/26, will continue for 2026/27 using the following basis:

<b>De-delegated Heading</b>	<b>Formula Factor</b>
Contingency	Per Pupil Amount
Behaviour Support Services	20% Per Pupil Amount 11% Free School Meals 22% Free School Meal Ever6 22% IDACI 25% Prior Attainment
Support for Ethnic Minority Pupils	50% Per Pupil 50% Per EAL Pupil
Administration of Free School Meals	Free School Meal Numbers
Jury service and union business	Per Pupil Amount
Head Teacher Partnership	Lump Sum Amount

## **3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Maintained Primary and Secondary representatives on the Schools' Forum are requested to agree the services to be de-delegated in 2026/27, as per paragraph 1.3.

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