

Schools Forum – 2nd December 2024

De-Delegation Decisions for 2025/26

1. Why is this coming here – what decision is required?

Under the Government's current funding rules there is an assumption of delegation for a number of budget areas which are currently held centrally for maintained schools and are delegated for academies. Each year maintained schools' representative on the Schools Forum vote, by phase and on behalf of the schools they represent, to de-delegate these areas i.e. allow the LA to hold the budgets rather than delegate to schools; where it is proposed by the local authority. The outcome of the vote is binding for all maintained schools of that phase.

For 2025/26, Torbay Council Children's Services is proposing the option of de-delegation for all of the areas shown in the table below. It is for Torbay's Schools Forum to vote on each on behalf of schools. The vote is being carried out at this time to enable schools and services time plan for their budgets and responsibilities for 2025/26.

Under the national funding arrangements the government wants schools to have the opportunity to have as much funding and responsibility delegated to them as possible. The vote determines whether or not a range of costs currently met centrally will transfer to maintained schools for them to manage themselves.

Academies are not part of these arrangements since these responsibilities and the funding for them are automatically delegated to academies through the ESFA.

Actual figures for 2025/26 will change from those presented, as they will be based on the October 24 census, this data will be available towards the end of December. See individual sheet for detail and voting boxes.

2. Recommendations

That the Schools Forum considers the proposals and for:-

Maintained schools members vote on the de-delegation items on behalf of the phase of schools they represent.