

De-Delegation and Centrally Retained Decisions for 2024/25 Schools Forum – 23rd November 2023

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 2024/25, 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 2024/25.

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 2024/25 will change from those presented, as they will be based on the October 23 census, this data will be available towards the end of December. See individual sheet for detail and voting boxes.

2. Centrally Retained budgets

These budget areas can be retained with the agreement of the Schools Forum. For Torbay this is Planned Pupil Growth, School Admissions Service, Servicing the Schools Forum, Centrally retained element of the Early Years Block (5%) and request to transfer funds from the School Block to High Needs. The School Forum is required to approve the amounts against each budget area. See individual sheet for detail and voting boxes.

All Members of the Schools Forum have an EQUAL vote on these items.

3. 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.

All schools and academies vote on centrally retained items.