

	<p style="text-align: center;">London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 9th September 2025</p>
Title	General Education Duties De-Delegation 2026-27
Agenda Item	3c
Report by	Abi Preston & Ndenko Asong
Appendices	n/a
Recommendation(s)	<div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision </div> <p>a. Agree to a de-delegation of General Education duties from maintained schools block budgets of £12 per pupil to support the statutory duties required</p>

1. Purpose:

This report outlines the proposed de-delegation from maintained schools budget shares for funding the statutory functions of the Education Improvement Service in monitoring and supporting maintained schools. This paper aims to seek approval by those members to agree to fund these statutory duties.

2. Background:

Local authorities can fund services previously funded from the general funding rate of the Education Services Grant (ESG) from maintained schools budget shares, with the agreement of maintained school members of the Schools Forum.

Until 1 April 2017, the Council received an ESG to cover the cost of delivering its responsibilities in respect of schools. This had two elements, a retained duties element covering the Council's duties to all schools (which now forms the Central Schools Services Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant) and a general duties rate which related to maintained schools only. The general duties rate ended on 1 April 2017 with a transitional grant being payable to local authorities for 2017/18. This resulted in a reduction in the Council's grant income of c£2M from 2018/19 whilst the duties remain.

The Council proposes to charge the maintained school budget shares **£12 per pupil** (based on 2025/26 rates) to cover the costs of the services listed below, which were previously funded by ESG, totalling £217k.

- £17k - monitoring of National Curriculum assessments (Schedule 2, paragraph 76)
- £60k - expenditure on inspecting attendance registers under the Education (Schedule 2, paragraph 80)
- £50k - appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Schedule 2, paragraph 74)
- £10k - functions under the Equality Act 2010 (Schedule 2, paragraph 72)
- £50k - appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Schedule 2, paragraph 67) and consultation costs relating to staffing (Schedule 2, paragraph 68).
- £30k - monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Schedule 2, paragraph 60)

Benchmarking was undertaken to ensure that the charges to Hillingdon schools are in line with other local authorities. It was found that Hillingdon charges a quarter of the average cost charged by other Local Authorities.

Table 1: Benchmarking per pupil net expenditure

Per pupil net expenditure	Hillingdon	Outer London	England
School improvement 1.6.7	£0	£5	£7
Statutory/ Regulatory duties – education 1.5.3, 1.6.4	£3	£12	£11

* Per capita figures are derived using the Section 251 Outturn data with pupil numbers and/or population estimates, depending on the sub-category of the planned expenditure being looked at.

Please note, the benchmarking figures are not accurate charges to schools but are calculated against population to benchmark costs per pupil net expenditure, which is why the amount being requested doesn't correlate with this amount. The benchmarking should be used as a comparative tool rather than actual amounts.

Examples of charges in other LAs for General Education Duties for maintained schools:

- Manchester - £17.45 per pupil (24/25)
- BCP - £23.15 per pupil (23/24)
- West Sussex - £27.58 per pupil
- Norfolk - £18 per pupil (23/24)

Please note: no charges are being proposed specifically for school improvement, in line with last year. Other LAs do charge for this function, often in addition to the general education duties.

Free School Meal checking –

FSM auto-enrolment is an initiative designed to automatically identify and register eligible pupils for Free School Meals using existing data held by the Local Authority. As part of the ongoing commitment to supporting children and families, Hillingdon Council is implementing a Free School Meals (FSM) auto-enrolment programme. This removes the need for families to complete a separate application, ensuring that no child misses out on their entitlement due to lack of awareness or administrative barriers.

As a result, a working group was created with officers from our Business Intelligence, Revenues and Benefits, Education, Data Protection, FIS, Public Health, Household Support Grant, Finance and Admissions teams to deliver the project and combine existing datasets from different services. This helps to identify potential families, ensuring our residents receive the correct funding they are entitled to.

Hillingdon CYPS in Hillingdon Schools identified through this exercise:

□

Settings	Number of Pupils Identified	Benefit to Schools – Pupil Premium
Nursery	19	Up to £570 per child
Primary	800	£1515 per child
Secondary	204	£1075 per child
Post-16	90	N/A
Grand Total	1113	£1,442,130

The Education and SEND teams are looking to run this exercise annually with the expectation that more children will be eligible next year with the changes to the Universal Credit threshold.

Other LAs charge a per-pupil rate for this service, however, Hillingdon are not charging this at present.

Cost per pupil in other LAs:

Newcastle – Primary £2.31, secondary £3.69

Telford & Wrekin - £9 for each eligible child

Norfolk - £4.23 (24/25)

Further analysis was undertaken on individual school budgets which evidences Hillingdon schools have higher per-pupil funding than other areas. For Hillingdon schools, the average per pupil net expenditure is £6,155 compared to national - £5,782

Staffing

Whilst the Education Improvement Service is often predominantly funded from the general education duties/ school improvement de-delegation, only a proportion of the service is funded through these contributions and the rest is funded by the Council currently. This may be reviewed in future.

EIP service costs: The structure for the EIP team totals £766,500 for staffing. This includes Education Improvement advisors and coordinators, governance and safeguarding officers, and the post 16 officer. The contribution of £217k is roughly 28% of the team's costs, with the remaining amount funded from General Fund.

3. Recommendations:

For forum to approve the de-delegation of schools block to fund the statutory duties local authorities are expected to provide to maintained schools. It is expected this will be £12 per pupil.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1: Example modelling based on previous year's census return – values will change but this demonstrates an example of the typical impact on each school.

LAESTAB	School Name	NOR	Education functions for mainstream maintained schools
3123300	Bishop Winnington-Ingram CofE Primary School	202	£2,424
3123401	Botwell House Catholic Primary School	619	£7,428
3122003	Bourne Primary School	198	£2,376
3122084	Cherry Lane Primary School	592	£7,104
3122010	Colham Manor Primary School	554	£6,648
3122012	Coteford Infant School	171	£2,052
3122016	Deanesfield Primary School	620	£7,440
3123307	Dr Triplett's CofE Primary School	408	£4,896
3122019	Field End Infant School	240	£2,880
3122076	Frithwood Primary School	378	£4,536
3122020	Glebe Primary School	579	£6,948
3125203	Grange Park Infant and Nursery School	245	£2,940
3125202	Grange Park Junior School	369	£4,428
3122024	Harefield Infant School	134	£1,608
3122023	Harefield Junior School	203	£2,436
3125411	Harlington School	1117	£13,404
3122025	Harlyn Primary School	375	£4,500
3122026	Harmondsworth Primary School	191	£2,292
3125211	Hayes Park School	607	£7,284
3122029	Heathrow Primary School	379	£4,548
3122063	Highfield Primary School	249	£2,988
3125204	Hillside Infant School	169	£2,028
3125205	Hillside Junior School	227	£2,724
3123302	Holy Trinity CofE Primary School	177	£2,124
3122032	Lady Bankes Primary School	571	£6,852
3122037	Minet Infant and Nursery School	306	£3,672
3122036	Minet Junior School	392	£4,704
3122039	Newnham Infant and Nursery School	257	£3,084
3122038	Newnham Junior School	353	£4,236
3125200	Oak Farm Primary School	544	£6,528
3125409	Oak Wood School	1069	£12,828
3122064	Rabbsfarm Primary School	599	£7,188
3122080	Ruislip Gardens Primary School	247	£2,964
3123405	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	624	£7,488
3125208	St Andrew's C of E Primary School	185	£2,220

3123402	St Bernadette Catholic Primary School	403	£4,836
3123403	St Catherine Catholic Primary School	202	£2,424
3123404	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	211	£2,532
3123400	St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School	204	£2,448
3122004	The Breakspear School	609	£7,308
3122065	Warrender Primary School	411	£4,932
3122069	Whitehall Infant School	287	£3,444
3122052	Whitehall Junior School	399	£4,788
3122074	Whiteheath Infant & Nursery School	198	£2,376
3122054	Whiteheath Junior School	301	£3,612
3122060	Yeading Infant and Nursery School	340	£4,080
3122059	Yeading Junior School	450	£5,400

Appendix 2 - Description of Services for All Schools and for Maintained Schools

Below is a tabulised format of information from the Schools Operational Guide 2025-26 which shows the split of services between the two groups of duties, retained duties for all schools and general duties for maintained schools.

From 2017-18, the general duties rate ended and funding previously allocated through the ESG retained duties rate (£15) was transferred into the schools block. Local authorities are able to fund central services previously funded within the retained duties rate (for all schools), with the agreement of schools forum – this is via the Central Block of DSG.

Local authorities are able to fund services previously funded within the general duties rate (for maintained schools only) from maintained school budgets shares with the agreement of maintained school members of the schools forum.

The split of services between the two groups is shown below. References are to the relevant schedules in the Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2020.

Responsibilities held for all schools	Responsibilities held for maintained schools only
Statutory and regulatory duties	
Director of children's services and personal staff for director (Schedule 2, paragraph 15a)	Functions of local authority related to best value and provision of advice to governing bodies in procuring goods and services (Schedule 2, paragraph 58)
Planning for the education service as a whole (Schedule 2, paragraph 15b)	Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure in respect of schools which do not have delegated budgets, and related financial administration (Schedule 2, paragraph 59)
Authorisation and monitoring of expenditure not met from schools' budget shares (Schedule 2, paragraph 15c)	Monitoring of compliance with requirements in relation to the scheme for financing schools and the provision of community facilities by governing bodies (Schedule 2, paragraph 60)
Formulation and review of local authority schools funding formula (Schedule 2, paragraph 15d)	
Internal audit and other tasks related to the local	Internal audit and other tasks related to the local

<p>authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under section 151 of the 'Local Government Act 1972' except duties specifically related to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 15e)</p> <p>Consultation costs relating to non-staffing issues (Schedule 2, paragraph 19)</p> <p>Plans involving collaboration with other local authority services or public or voluntary bodies (Schedule 2, paragraph 15f)</p> <p>Standing 'Advisory Committees for Religious Education' (sacres) (Schedule 2, paragraph 17)</p> <p>Provision of information to, or, at the request of The Crown other than relating specifically to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 21)</p> <p>Revenue budget preparation, preparation of information on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education (Schedule 2, paragraph 22)</p>	<p>authority's chief finance officer's responsibilities under section 151 of the 'Local Government Act 1972' for maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 61)</p> <p>Functions under regulations made under section 44 of the 'Education Act 2002' (Consistent Financial Reporting) in so far as the functions related to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 62)</p> <p>Investigations of employees or potential employees, with or without remuneration to work at or for schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Schedule 2, paragraph 63)</p> <p>Functions related to local government pensions and administration of teachers' pensions in relation to staff working at maintained schools under the direct management of the headteacher or governing body (Schedule 2, paragraph 64)</p> <p>HR duties, including advice to schools on the management of staff, pay alterations, conditions of service and composition or organisation of staff (Schedule 2, paragraph 65)</p> <p>Determination of conditions of service for non-teaching staff (Schedule 2, paragraph 66)</p> <p>Appointment or dismissal of employee functions (Schedule 2, paragraph 67)</p> <p>Consultation costs relating to staffing (Schedule 2, paragraph 68)</p> <p>Compliance with duties under the 'Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974' (Schedule 2, paragraph 69)</p> <p>Provision of information to, or, at the request of The Crown relating to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 70)</p> <p>School companies (Schedule 2, paragraph 71)</p> <p>Functions under the 'Equality Act 2010' (Schedule 2, paragraph 72)</p> <p>Establish and maintaining computer systems, including data storage (Schedule 2, paragraph 73)</p> <p>Appointment of governors and payment of governor expenses (Schedule 2, paragraph 74)</p> <p>Budgeting and accounting functions relating to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 75)</p> <p>Retrospective membership of pension schemes where it would not be appropriate to expect a school to meet the cost (Schedule 2, paragraph 77)</p>
Education Welfare	

<p>Functions in relation to school attendance (Schedule 2, paragraph 16)</p> <p>Responsibilities regarding restrictions on the employment of children (Schedule 2, paragraph 18)</p> <p>Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils (Schedule 2, paragraph 20)</p>	<p>Inspection of attendance registers (Schedule 2, paragraph 80)</p>
Asset Management	
<p>Management of the local authority's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions (Schedule 2, paragraph 14a)</p> <p>Landlord responsibilities, including those in relation to land leased to academies for schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 14b)</p>	<p>General landlord duties for all maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraphs 78a & b (section 542(2)) 'Education Act 1996'; 'School Premises (England) Regulations 2012') to ensure that school buildings have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - appropriate facilities for pupils and staff (including medical and accommodation) - the ability to sustain appropriate loads - reasonable weather resistance - safe escape routes - appropriate acoustic levels - lighting, heating and ventilation which meets the required standards - adequate water supplies and drainage - playing fields of the appropriate standards <p>General health and safety duty as an employer for employees and others who may be affected (Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974)</p> <p>Management of the risk from asbestos in community school buildings</p> <p>'Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012'</p>
Central Support Services	

No functions	<p>Clothing grants (Schedule 2, paragraph 54)</p> <p>Provision of tuition in music, or on other music-related activities (Schedule 2, paragraph 55)</p> <p>Visual, creative, and performing arts other than music (Schedule 2, paragraph 56)</p> <p>Outdoor education centres (but not centres mainly for the provision of organised games, swimming, or athletics) (Schedule 2, paragraph 57)</p> <p>Services set out above will also include administrative costs and overheads relating to these services (regulation 1(4)) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expenditure related to functions imposed by or under chapter 4 of part 2 of the 'School Standards and Framework Act 1998' (financing of maintained schools), the administration of grants to the local authority (including preparation of applications) and, where it is the local authority's duty to do so, ensuring payments are made in respect of taxation, national insurance, and superannuation contributions • expenditure on recruitment, training, continuing professional development, performance management and personnel management of staff who are funded by expenditure not met from schools' budget shares and who are paid for services • expenditure in relation to the investigation and resolution of complaints • expenditure on legal services
Premature Retirement and Redundancy	
No functions	Dismissal or premature retirement when costs cannot be charged to maintained schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 79)
Monitoring National Curriculum Assessments	
No functions	Monitoring of national curriculum assessments (Schedule 2, paragraph 76)
School Improvement	
No functions	Expenditure related to core school improvement activities of local authorities with respect to maintained schools (Schedule 2, 54)
Other Ongoing Duties	
<p>Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State for all publicly funded schools (Schedule 2, paragraph 8); this does not require schools forum approval</p> <p>Operation of the system of admissions and appeals (Schedule 2, paragraph 9)</p> <p>Fees or expenses payable in connection with the attendance of non-SEN pupils at schools not</p>	No Functions

<p>maintained by any local authority (Schedule 2, paragraph 10)</p> <p>Remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies (Schedule 2, paragraph 11)</p> <p>Servicing of schools forums (Schedule 2, paragraph 12)</p> <p>Back-pay for equal pay claims (Schedule 2, paragraph 13)</p> <p>Writing to parents of year 9 pupils about schools with an atypical age of admission, such as university technical colleges (UTCs) and studio schools, within a reasonable travelling distance (Schedule 2, paragraph 23)</p>	
Historic Commitments	
<p>Capital expenditure funded from revenue (Schedule 2, paragraph 1)</p> <p>Prudential borrowing costs (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(a))</p> <p>Termination of employment costs (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(b))</p> <p>Contribution to combined budgets (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(c))</p> <p>SEN transport costs (Schedule 2, paragraph 2(d))</p>	