

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Maintained Schools
	DATE:	January 2022
	LEAD OFFICER:	Pam Ward Strategic Lead School Effectiveness Service Tel No: 07881268127
	TITLE:	Reforming how school improvement functions are funded

1. Background

1.1	<p>Since 2017, the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant has been provided to support LA's to fulfil their core improvement activities, with the amount received by each council proportionate to the number of maintained schools in their area.</p> <p>The LA's school improvement activity can be divided into 'core improvement activities' and 'additional improvement services'</p>
1.2	<p>.</p> <p>Core Improvement Activities include: Identifying and supporting Schools of Concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership to ensure schools receive the support they need to improve. • Where underperformance has been recognised in a maintained school, proactively work with the relevant RSC, combining local and regional expertise to ensure the right approach, including sending warning notices and using intervention powers where this will improve leadership and standards. • Encourage good and outstanding maintained schools to take responsibility for their own improvement; support other schools; and enable other schools to access the support they need to improve.
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support educational recovery from the pandemic. <p>Additional improvement services Since 2017 councils have also been permitted, with the agreement of their local school's forum, to de-delegate funding from their schools' budget shares, to fund the provision of additional improvement services. These are activities that go above and beyond their core improvement activities, and may include, for example, providing or funding access to improvement support.</p>
1.4	<p>Rotherham council do not de- delegate to provide additional improvement and other services to schools. This is provided on a traded basis through RoSIS.</p> <p>School improvement monitoring and brokering Grant Consultation Process (SIMBG)</p> <p>The DfE launched a consultation on future funding arrangements beyond March 2022. The proposal is to remove the SIMBG and enable all improvement activity, including that provided in connection with core improvement activities, to be funded in the same way via de-delegation from schools' budget shares.</p>

<p>1.5</p> <p>1.6</p> <p>1.7</p> <p>1.8</p> <p>1.9</p> <p>1.10</p>	<p>Subject to the outcome of this consultation, DfE are proposing to phase in this change over two years, with the grant being paid at a 50% level in 2022-23, with full removal taking place in April 2023.</p> <p>The DfE rationale for the change and consultation is to create greater parity between how school improvement is funded in the maintained sector and the academy sector, by enabling local authorities to ask maintained schools to contribute to the cost of it.</p> <p>This proposal links to the government's longer-term ambition for all schools to become academies – where councils would no longer maintain schools.</p> <p>DfE support will still be made through curriculum and behaviour hubs, Teaching School Hubs and funded support from an NLE for any school that Ofsted judge RI.</p> <p>RMBC are now consulting with Maintained schools around de-delegated funding to support core school improvement activities currently utilised through SIMBG.</p> <p>This is being carried out in two ways. All maintained heads were invited to a face-to-face consultation on 10th December person through the maintained heads group so that a wider level of dialogue around this could be captured and inform a clear position as we go forward. At this meeting there was agreement to support de-delegation to fund core activities.</p> <p>Through direct consultation (paper based) with all maintained heads following the national consultation closure.</p>
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2. Key Issues

<p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p>	<p>DfE proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the School Improvement Monitoring & Brokering Grant which is currently allocated to local authorities to support school improvement activities. • Make provisions within the School and Early Years Finance Regulations for the financial year 2022-23 to allow local authorities to fund all of their school improvement activity (including all core school improvement activities) via de-delegation from schools' budget shares. <p>Impact on school budgets.</p> <p>Schools funding is increasing by 3.2% overall in 2022/2023. As a consequence all schools will see an increase in their funding allocation compared to 2021/2022. Agreement to de-delegate will have limited impact on individual school budgets due to this year on year % increase.</p> <p>RMBC are seeking the views of all maintained school</p> <p>Option 1 De-delegate at a rate of £10 per pupil, to continue current core school Improvement activities. In 2022-2023 financial year this will equate to 50% of the reduction in school improvement brokerage grant as outlined below.</p> <p>Core Improvement Activities Identifying and supporting Schools of Concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership to ensure schools receive the support they need to improve. • Where underperformance has been recognised in a maintained school, proactively work with the relevant RSC, combining local and regional expertise to
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<p>2.5</p> <p>2.6</p>	<p>ensure the right approach, including sending warning notices and using intervention powers where this will improve leadership and standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage good and outstanding maintained schools to take responsibility for their own improvement; support other schools; and enable other schools to access the support they need to improve. • Support educational recovery from the pandemic. <p>Option 2 De-delegate at a higher rate of £19 per pupil to support additional improvement services beyond the current core school improvement activities.</p> <p>Additional Improvement Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment for all maintained schools. • School improvement officers to provide early support and challenge to improve individual school performance. • School improvement officers working in partnership with all maintained schools to ensure schools identify and receive the support they need. • Broker and commission the implementation of a support package and monitor and quality assure the impact of the support. • Half-termly school improvement visits. • Support for maintained schools that are due an Ofsted inspection and throughout the Ofsted inspection process. • Facilitating partnership working between the maintained schools. • Provide regular communications and updates for maintained schools on local and national strategies and policies that inform the work of schools. <p>In line with the DfE consultation we have not provided an option to not de-delegate as it is expected that all council core school improvement activities, will be funded via de-delegation, with any non-statutory services which councils choose to continue to offer either provided on a traded basis or also funded through de-delegation.</p>
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3. Key Actions and Timelines

3.1	December 2021 / Early January 2022 Government publishes its response to the consultation, confirming its intentions.
3.2	December 2021 / January 2021 Councils agree de-delegation for FY 2022-23 with their schools forums.
3.3	Provisions made within the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations allowing councils to de-delegate to fund all improvement activity, including core improvement activities, from FY 2022-23 onward.
3.4	Amendments made to relevant government guidance relating to council school improvement activity.
3.5	By April 2022 School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2022- 23 come into effect, allowing councils to de-delegate for all council school improvement functions.
3.6	April 2022 the Grant is reduced by 50% on a per school basis. 11 Date Proposal April 2023 the Grant is removed entirely.
3.7	Response to this consultation is required by Monday 10 th January.
3.8	De-delegation for the financial year 2022-2023 is required to be agreed by 21 st January 2022.

4. Recommendations	
4.1	That maintained school leaders reflect upon the 2 options contained within this report and inform school finance of their decision by Monday 10 th January. The response from this consultation will be presented to schools forum for consideration. Regulations permit councils to de-delegate from schools' budget shares with the agreement of schools forum or the Secretary of State..