

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

CHANGES TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To request consideration of de-delegation as a route to securing the longer-term funding for a sustainable School Improvement Service.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 All local authorities have a statutory duty to maintain standards in schools under the 1996 Education Act. In North Lincolnshire strong and effective partnerships have driven a robust approach to school improvement and mutual accountability.
- 2.2 The School Improvement team are responsible for ensuring standards in schools of all designations across the LA, for brokering and assuring any external support and providing bespoke specialist challenge and support for schools of concern. It is a small team who also provide a contribution to the staffing of the North Lincolnshire programme for growing local teachers: the School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT). Until 2023 the School Improvement team were part funded through the government's Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) under the Local Authority Monitoring and Brokering (LAMB) Grant, with the remainder coming through core council funding.
 - 2.2.1 Following consultation in November 2021, The Department for Education (DFE) announced the decision in January 2022 that ESFA school improvement funding would be reduced by 50% for the financial year 2022/3 and removed in 2023/4, and determined that LAs should seek to de-delegate funding from schools through Schools Forum for core school improvement activity.
 - 2.2.2 The government contribution of EFSA School Improvement funding in North Lincolnshire is approximately £200,000, the remainder of the costs of this team is met by North Lincolnshire Council Core Funding (approximately £210,000).

- 2.2.3 In 2022/23 the Council met the £100,000 reduction through core Council funding and in 2023/24 the Council met the complete costs of the substantive school improvement service through core funding.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 School Improvement service delivery funded solely from core Council revenue means that continuity of service is more vulnerable to changes in political and wider council priorities. If schools make the decision to support funding through de-delegation for maintained schools and a traded offer for academies, it will ensure continuity of service. It is proposed that there is an agreement to de-delegate based on a formula of £11.00 per pupil. This would mitigate the removal of the LAMB Grant and fund the current level of school improvement work with maintained schools. Academies would then be charged at the same rate were they to buy in.
- 3.2 Maintaining a strong school improvement strategy ensures high standards in schools and impacts on inclusion and children's outcomes. Continuing to work with all schools regardless of designation is a risk in the new funding arrangements however elements of core Council funding will continue to ensure that some work can be undertaken with all schools.
- 3.3 Details in the APPENDIX set out the anticipated impact on schools budget of the de-delegation and the potential cost of buy-in for academies.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Agree the proposal to strengthen the funding arrangements for School Improvement through de-delegation
- 4.2 Do not accept the proposal to de-delegate funding

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An increase of funding of £200,000 needs to be secured to mitigate the removal of LAMB funding through the ESFA.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Ensuring that all children are able to access high quality education through excellent schools is pivotal to their future education and career pathways. The balance of decision making must consider the importance of investing in effective schools, supporting improvement and must have least adverse impact on children who attend failing schools.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Discussions about the consultation to remove the LAMB Grant have taken place with the Education Chairs Group, the Education Standards Board and

the Executive Headteachers Group during the last financial year. It was agreed arrangements would be reviewed in readiness for the new financial year 2024/2025.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Schools Forum consider the implications of de-delegation on schools' budgets and on the ongoing and future standards in North Lincolnshire schools.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR EDUCATION

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

[Reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded - Government consultation response](#) - DFE January 2022

APPENDIX

School Name	Designation	NOR	£11 per pupil
Westcliffe Primary School	M	311.00	£3,421.00
Lincoln Gardens Primary School	M	399.00	£4,389.00
The Grange Primary School	M	359.00	£3,949.00
Alkborough Primary School	M	75.00	£825.00
Althorpe and Keadby Primary School	M	163.00	£1,793.00
Bottesford Junior School	M	265.00	£2,915.00
Brigg Primary School	M	326.00	£3,586.00
Burton-upon-Stather Primary School	M	188.00	£2,068.00
East Halton Primary School	M	45.00	£495.00
Goxhill Primary School	M	209.00	£2,299.00
Kirton Lindsey Primary School	M	225.00	£2,475.00
Luddington & Garthorpe Primary	M	75.00	£825.00
Messingham Primary School	M	265.00	£2,915.00
Killingholme Primary School	M	99.00	£1,089.00
Bushfield Road Infant School	M	176.00	£1,936.00
Frodingham Infant School	M	175.00	£1,925.00
South Ferriby Primary School	M	75.00	£825.00
Winteringham Primary School	M	92.00	£1,012.00
Priory Lane Community School	M	357.00	£3,927.00
Enderby Road Infant School	M	90.00	£990.00
Leys Farm Junior School	M	134.00	£1,474.00
Bottesford Infant School	M	207.00	£2,277.00
Berkeley Primary School	M	571.00	£6,281.00
Winterton Junior School	M	228.00	£2,508.00
St Peter and St Paul CofE Primary School	M	320.00	£3,520.00
Holme Valley Primary School	M	420.00	£4,620.00
Bowmandale Primary School	M	344.00	£3,784.00
Crosby Primary School	M	490.00	£5,390.00
Castledyke Primary School	M	234.00	£2,574.00
St Barnabas CofE Primary School, Barnetby	M	158.00	£1,738.00
John Harrison C of E Primary School	M	184.00	£2,024.00
Barton St Peter's CofE Primary School	M	258.00	£2,838.00
Belton All Saints CofE Primary School	M	191.00	£2,101.00
Gunness and Burringham Church of England Primary School	M	98.00	£1,078.00
Haxey CofE Primary School	M	167.00	£1,837.00
Kirmington CofE Primary School	M	54.00	£594.00
Scunthorpe CofE Primary School	M	219.00	£2,409.00
West Butterwick C of E Primary School	M	41.00	£451.00
Winterton Church of England Infants' School	M	133.00	£1,463.00
Wroot Travis Charity Church of England Primary School	M	30.00	£330.00
New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School	M	48.00	£528.00

St Martin's CofE Primary School	M	108.00	£1,188.00
Wootton St Andrew's CofE Primary School	M	60.00	£660.00
Eastoft Church of England Primary School	M	68.00	£748.00
Oakfield Primary School	M	264.00	£2,904.00
Frederick Gough School	M	1,338.00	£14,718.00
Baysgarth School	M	955.00	£10,505.00
Sir John Nelthorpe School	M	736.00	£8,096.00
Oasis Academy Henderson Avenue	A	607.00	£6,677.00
Oasis Academy Parkwood	A	309.00	£3,399.00
Ulceby St Nicholas Church of England Primary School	A	121.00	£1,331.00
Willoughby Road Primary Academy	A	285.00	£3,135.00
Outwood Junior Academy Brumby	A	470.00	£5,170.00
Crowle Primary Academy	A	209.00	£2,299.00
Hibaldstow Academy	A	112.00	£1,232.00
Scawby Academy	A	208.00	£2,288.00
Worlaby Academy	A	62.00	£682.00
Epworth Primary Academy	A	270.00	£2,970.00
Westwoodside Church of England Academy	A	126.00	£1,386.00
Wrawby St Mary's CofE Primary School	A	135.00	£1,485.00
St Mary's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy (Brigg)	A	179.00	£1,969.00
St Norbert's Catholic Voluntary Academy	A	107.00	£1,177.00
St Bernadette's Catholic Voluntary Academy	A	301.00	£3,311.00
Saint Augustine Webster Catholic Voluntary Academy	A	356.00	£3,916.00
Melior Community Academy	A	852.00	£9,372.00
Outwood Academy Brumby	A	766.00	£8,426.00
Engineering UTC Northern Lincolnshire	A	211.00	£2,321.00
Huntcliff School	A	543.00	£5,973.00
Outwood Academy Foxhills	A	708.00	£7,788.00
The Axholme Academy	A	543.00	£5,973.00
South Axholme Academy	A	939.00	£10,329.00
Winterton Community Academy	A	493.00	£5,423.00
The Vale Academy	A	666.00	£7,326.00
St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy	A	664.00	£7,304.00
The St Lawrence Academy	A	793.00	£8,723.00
Broughton Primary School	A	324.00	£3,564.00