

To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 14 May 2015

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Delegated Management of Resources : Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out proposed amendments to the delegated management of resources (DMR) scheme currently operating in Renfrewshire's early years establishments, primary, secondary and additional support needs schools.
 - 1.2. A copy of the detailed scheme can be obtained in electronic form on request from the director of children's services.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The education and children policy board is to approve the undernoted amendments to the permissible virement or carry forward within the DMR scheme for financial year 2015/16:
 - primary teaching staff salaries to nil.
 - energy (gas, electricity, heating oil and wood pellets) to nil.
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3. Background

- 3.1. The current scheme of delegation, which was last updated in April 2013, devolves a large measure of decision making power over the deployment of financial resources in schools . It covers specific budget headings within a school's overall budget allocation.
- 3.2. The DMR scheme allows schools the benefit of local financial control while affording the safeguard of being part of a large education authority.

- 3.3. The scheme continues to provide for:
- the carry forward of budget surpluses from one financial year to the next
 - the transfer (or 'virement') within the same financial year, of funds saved in one budget heading to another area where additional provision is deemed appropriate.
- 3.4. The service maintains central budgets to provide high quality support services to schools, such as the education development and education psychology services.
- 3.5. Since 2013/14 the service has allocated primary teacher staffing according to class size policy rather than the previously employed formula. This effectively removed the scope for virement and the recommendation in paragraph 2.2 formalises the current practice. The service has consulted with Primary head teachers who broadly support this proposal.
- 3.6. In recent years council has adjusted service energy budgets to match actual expenditure. In 2015/16, responsibility for consumption reverts to the services and the recommendation in paragraph 2.3 offers protection to school budgets during the transition period.
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Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

The recommendations provide or limit flexibility in school budget deployment. There is no impact on the aggregate budget of any individual establishment. .

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

None.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Children and Young People

- The flexibility inherent in the scheme allows head teachers to take a variety of local factors into account in making decisions on spending, including the promotion of social inclusion.

4. Legal Implications

None.

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report.

8. Health and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

- (a) Revised DMR Scheme of Delegation, March 2015, incorporating the recommendations

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Children's Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is George McLachlan, Education Manager, Tel 0141 618 6133, email george.mclachlan@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk.

Children's Services

GMcL/MD/LG

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