

**SLOUGH SCHOOL FORUM**  
**18<sup>TH</sup> April 2012**

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**Services to Schools and Academies - Charging Policy 2012-13**  
**(Director of Resources & Regeneration)**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the views of Schools Forum on the charging arrangements for 2012/13 for Local Authority Services traded directly with maintained schools and academies. The main change is the inclusion of a number of newly traded services arising from the movement of funding from the Local Authority to academies.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Schools Forum notes the arrangements for traded services in 2012-13.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Local Authority reviews its Services for Schools each financial year in order to ensure that it continues to offer high quality and responsive services that provide 'best value' within the market for schools services generally. The authority has now reviewed its Services for Schools offer for 2012/13. The Service Level Agreement (SLA) offer is available on the Slough website.
- 3.2 In addition, Academies now receive funding for specific services previously held centrally by the Local Authority and provided for free to maintained schools. In 2011/12 Slough passed over some £353,000 of funding from Dedicated Schools Grant to the DfE from the Local Authority budgets funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant. This is combined with the Revenue Support Grant deduction made in 2011/12 of £366,000.
- 3.3 In order to ensure a level playing field between maintained schools and academies, it is now appropriate that academies should be charged for any services that they continue to receive and for which funding has been passed to them through Local Authority Central Services Equivalent Grant (LACSEG).
- 3.4 This arrangement will only apply for the financial year 2012-13. From 1 April 2013, the DfE is proposing greater delegation of centrally managed budgets to all maintained schools and Academies.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

## 5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 At a meeting of the Schools Forum on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012 funding was approved for a project to develop a Charging Policy for Academies. The policy is in respect of service responsibilities and funding that have transferred to the Academies and that were previously provided for free by the Local Authority
- 5.2 The services the council provides for schools are in three categories:
- Core / Statutory Services - apply to all maintained schools and Academies,
  - Traded services – available on a traded basis to all schools and academies, and
  - Additional Services – available free to maintained schools and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 are chargeable to Academies
- 5.3 Slough will continue to provide statutory services to all schools and Academies.
- 5.4 Where Slough has historically offered a Traded Service to all maintained schools, this service will continue to be offered to maintained schools and Academies. Services will be available to Academies on the same basis as the offer to maintained schools. Some of these services will remain relevant to Academies, some will not. Academies will decide which services to procure from the Local Authority. The list of traded services is as follows;
- Counselling and Mediation
  - Behaviour Support Associates
  - Education Property Management
  - Free School Meal Eligibility HUB
  - Governor Support
  - Health and Safety advice and support
  - Human Resources / Employee Relations
  - ICT for School Administration (Capita Support Contract)
  - ICT Technical Support (Advice and support for purchase of ICT equipment / Software)
  - Legal
  - Occupational Health
  - Outdoor Play Equipment Inspection
  - Payroll
  - Psychology (non-statutory)
  - Radiation Protection
  - Risk Management and Insurance
  - Bursar Support
  - School Catering (for those in the contract)
  - School Crossing Patrols
  - School Financial Management Support
  - Service for Autism
  - Tree Management

5.5 Where functions or services have transferred to Academies, formal charging arrangements will be put in place for Academies. The full list of functions and services for which Academies assume responsibility is attached at Appendix A. The following services will commence more formal Academy charging arrangements from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

- Admissions Appeals (Set up costs, attendance at appeal)
- Attendance Work (Attendance Panel attendance and Fixed Penalty Notice issue)
- Behaviour Support Service (Specialist Support Teachers annual packages, Individual bespoke intervention programmes)
- ICT Technical Support (Advice / Support in respect of the management, maintenance and support of broadband networks)
- Internal Audit services
- School Emergency Planning Services
- Trade Union Duties (via Montem Primary School)

5.6 The pricing model applied for the above services is based on actual cost, which is consistent with the model applied to all other traded services.

5.7 School Improvement / Raising Achievement services could be traded with Academies. However, the service is only funded to fulfil the Council's statutory functions for its residual maintained schools (Schools Forum - September 2011). Therefore, the council will not be providing any kind of non-statutory traded school improvement service for either its maintained schools or academies.

5.8 A letter was sent to all Academies on 30 March regarding available services for 2012-13.

5.9 Should Academies decide not to purchase services from the local authority, it will be necessary for services to be reduced.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

### Section 151 Officer

6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

### Access Implications

6.3 There are no access implications.

## 7 CONSULTATION

### Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 Not applicable.

### Method of Consultation

7.2 Not applicable.

### Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

### Background Papers

None

### Contact for further information

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## APPENDIX A

### List of Local Authority services that are included in the remit of LACSEG

<b>Services and costs funded by Dedicated Schools Grant</b>
Behaviour Support Services
14-16 Practical Learning options
Support to underperforming Minority ethnic groups and bilingual learners
School meals and milk
Assessment of free school meals eligibility
Repair and maintenance of kitchens
Museum and library services
Licences and subscriptions
Central staff costs (maternity, long term sickness and trade union duties)
Costs of certain employment terminations
<b>Services and costs funded by Revenue Support Grant / Council Tax</b>
Costs of a Local Authority's statutory and Regulatory duties
- Financial accounting requirements – including accounts, returns, VAT returns
- Financial assurance including internal and external audit
- Procurement advice and compliance
- Pension scheme administration
- HR employer functions
- Health and Safety compliance
- Governor support
- Strategic ICT and data management services
Asset management costs (excluding strategic LA capital planning and Mgt of BSF / PFI)
School improvement services
Monitoring of national curriculum assessment
Education Welfare Services (excluding prosecutions for non-attendance, Tracking children missing from education, child employment)
Pupil Support (Clothing Grants)
Music services
Visual and performing arts services
Outdoor education services
Certain redundancy and early retirement costs