

2023-24 SCHOOLS FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION RESPONSES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & PUBLIC VALUE AND DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S FUTURES (INTERIM)

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that DEF:

- a) Specifically approve the proposals for the 2023-24 schools revenue funding formula and make recommendation to Cabinet.
 - i. to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to at 0%
 - ii. to adjust the sparsity factor should actual funding received be lower than the indicative amount stated in the consultation
 - iii. to distribute any unallocated funds in the following order prior to using surplus growth fund, (should actual funding received be higher than the indicative amount stated in the consultation):
 - a. Bring the Sparsity factor up to the NFF rates stated for 2023-24
 - b. Add to the MFG up to a maximum of 0.5% per 2023-24 guidance.
 - c. Go towards the amount being transferred to the high needs block up to a maximum of 0.5% (see Movements into Another Block)

Note that the final funding rates may change subject to affordability when the October 2022 pupil data and Schools Block DSG settlement is confirmed in late December 2022

All to Vote

- b) Specifically approve to propose to transfer 0.5% between blocks for 2023-24 through a one-off transfer of the growth fund surplus and make recommendation to Cabinet.
- c) Specifically agree the de-delegation proposals for maintained primary and maintained secondary schools as listed in Section 3.17-3.18 and appendix 2

Vote: Maintained primary representatives

Vote: Maintained secondary representatives

- d) Specifically agree the central services funding allocations
 - i. to continue to contribute £60,000 for the Emotional, Psychological and Social Wellbeing Service.
 - ii. to top slice £223,000 from the Schools Block to fund the Phase Association (Devon SLS and DAG) for one year.
 - iii. to retain the funding centrally at the increased £5.99 rate per pupil (£550,000) for Schools Admissions Service.
 - iv. to fund Anycomms+ at a rate of £90 per year for a 3-year period,

All to Vote

1. Consultation 2023-24

- 1.1. The consultation documents for [Schools Funding Arrangements 2023-24](#) were published on the Devon County website and two online consultation events were held. All schools were invited to respond to the proposals contained within the document by 16th October 2022.
- 1.2. This report should be read in conjunction with the consultation documents. [Consultations: Support for Schools](#)
- 1.3. The outcomes strive to deliver the fairest distribution of funding for the majority of schools whilst keeping within both the funding envelope and adhering to the NFF guidance.

2. Responses

- 2.1. In total, 72 representatives attended the 2 online events from 118 schools.
- 2.2. 141 individual schools (39% of all schools), representing nearly 38,000 pupils, completed the consultation which is an improvement on every year since 2019 and we want to thank schools for taking the time to engage with the process. An analysis of participation can be found in [Appendix 1](#)

3. Proposals

Schools Funding

- 3.1. Based on the indicative funding for 2023-24 announced in July 2022, implementing the full National Funding Formula (NFF) and setting the minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at 0% would leave a funding gap of £55,000.
- 3.2. Devon will meet this gap with surplus funding from the Growth Fund. This surplus has accumulated over several years and presents a one-off opportunity to allocate maximum funding to the School Budget Share (SBS).
- 3.3. In addition, we have consulted with schools and proposed to
 - i. Set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to at 0%
 - ii. Should actual funding received be lower than the indicative amount stated in the consultation to adjust the sparsity factor
 - iii. Should actual funding received be higher than the indicative amount stated in the consultation to distribute any unallocated funds, prior to using the growth fund surplus, in the following order:
 - o Bring the Sparsity factor up to the NFF rates stated for 2023-24
 - o Add to the MFG up to a maximum of 0.5% per 2023-24 guidance.
 - o Go towards the amount being transferred to the high needs block up to a maximum of 0.5% (see [Movements into Another Block](#))
- 3.4. Schools were predominantly in favour of these proposals and responded as follows:

- 126 schools (89%) agreed to setting the MFG at 0%.
 - 115 schools (82%) agreed to adjust the sparsity factor should actual funding received be lower.
 - 94 schools (67%) agreed to distribute any unallocated funds as above, should actual funding received be higher.
- 3.5. It is proposed to set the MFG at 0% and depending on the allocation received in December adjust the funding to schools as agreed in principle under 3.3.

Movement between Blocks

- 3.6. As part of the consultation Devon proposed 3 options for funding the 0.5% transfer to the High Needs Block:
- A reduction to the Schools Funding by using a % deduction across all funding factors;
 - A reduction to the Schools Funding by using a % deduction on Basic Entitlement (AWPU);
 - A one-off transfer from the Growth Fund Surplus.
- 3.7. Transferring the surplus to individual schools is not for consideration, as this would move schools further away from the NFF and put at risk not only our ability to make the changes necessary to bring us back to a sustainable system, but also risk the funding and support Devon is trying to access through the Safety Valve Intervention initiative. Because of this, schools would not see their individual school budgets impacted as a result of transferring the Growth Fund surplus to the High Needs Block.
- 3.8. For 2023-24, the block transfer is set at up to 0.5% of the Schools Block into another block, with Schools Forum approval. Devon proposed a transfer of 0.5% (£2.48 million) from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support the demands of the High Needs Block and in particular the work on cost prevention and reduction.
- 3.9. Devon's preference is for 2023-24 only, to transfer funding of the Growth Fund surplus accumulated over several years and provides an opportunity to retain maximum funding being received for individual schools within the School Budget Share for 2023-24.
- 3.10. The Safety Valve proposal submitted to the DfE in February 2022 includes an assumption that there is a need to transfer the funds in order to support workstreams and bring High Needs costs back within the funding envelope.
- 3.11. Although this was set out within the paper and discussed at the consultation events it appears that schools were not fully appreciative of this one-off treatment to transfer funds and 79 Schools (56%) still did not agree to move 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for the coming financial period.
- 3.12. When presented with the 3 options of how the £2.48 million would be funded, 130 Schools (92%) preferred to fund the transfer via a one-off transfer from the Growth Fund Surplus.
- 3.13. School representatives have voiced concerns that schools are not willing to make the transfer in the first instance. However, Devon proposes that the 0.5% transfer between blocks will take place for 2023-24 through a one-off transfer using the growth fund surplus as there is the need to continue to support the management action plans which support any Safety Valve intervention.

3.14. Should this proposal not be agreed then we will take this as a disapplication to the Secretary of State for them to decide the outcome.

3.15. Additional comments made around the proposals can be found in [Appendix 1](#)

Delegation and De-delegation

3.16. The consultation responses of the 78 maintained schools (46% of all maintained schools) representing 18,000 pupils can be found in [Appendix 2](#)
Delegation and De-delegation

3.17. The following services are to be de-delegated in 2023-24 from the primary and secondary maintained schools subject to Schools Forum decision by the representatives in each sector.

- Behaviour support services
- Support to under-performing ethnic groups and bilingual learners
- Copyrights, licences and subscriptions (not covered by a national licence which DfE charge the local authority)
- Trade unions and public duties
- Jury Service
- Maternity
- Contingencies (including schools in financial difficulties and deficits of closing schools)

3.18. In addition, with the removal of the School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant from 2022-23, core school improvement activities can now be funded via de-delegation from schools budget shares has been included from next year as a new request to schools.

3.19. De-delegation is not an option for academies, special schools, nurseries or PRUs, but where de-delegation has been agreed for maintained primary and secondary schools, it is the Department's presumption that the Local Authority will offer the service on a buy-back basis to those schools and academies in their area which are not covered by the de-delegation.

3.20. 75 maintained primary and 3 maintained secondary schools responded to these proposals. Both phases responded favourably to keeping all of the services funded through de-delegation and to fund School Improvement in the same way from 2023-24.

3.21. It is proposed that all the services continue in their present state and that School Improvement to be provided by DCC at an estimated cost of £640,000 (£18.82 per pupil).

Central School Services Block

3.22. The Central School Services Block (CSSB) provides funding for local authorities to carry out the following central functions on behalf of maintained schools and academies:

- ongoing responsibilities

- historic commitments

3.23. Devon was successful in 2022-23 by obtaining from the DfE a protection from having a reduction that took the total historic commitments funding below the total value of our ongoing Termination of Employment costs, in recognition of the lead in times required for such costs to unwind. It is expected to be received again for 2023-24 via a disapplication request.

Central Services

3.24. The consultation responses detail be found at [Appendix 2](#) Central Services

Emotional, Psychological & Social Wellbeing Services

3.25. It is proposed that Schools will make the annual contribution of £60,000 for 2023/24 as 128 schools (91%) of the 141 agreed to continue to contribute to this area of work.

Phase Associations

3.26. For 2023-24 it is proposed that Phase Associations will be funded by way of top slice arrangement of £223,000 from the Schools Block for Devon SLS and DAG and £47,000 pooled from the High Needs Block for SENTient Heads.

3.27. Of the 141 schools which responded 108 schools (77%) agreed to continue to fund the Phase Associations with 70 schools (50%) wanting to continue with the one-year agreement.

3.28. It is therefore proposed to top-slice the Phase Associations funding of £223,000 for 2023-24 by a one-year agreement and be consulted again as part of the next funding consultation.

School Admissions

3.29. It is proposed that Schools Admissions funding will increase to £550,000 (£5.99 per pupil) as 138 schools (98%) of the 141 agreed to this.

Anycomms+

3.30. It is proposed that Anycomms+ is funded through a top slice from the Schools Block of £90 per school for a 3-year period as 139 schools (99%) of the 141 agreed to this.

4. Recommendations

4.1. Specifically approve the proposals for the 2023-24 schools revenue funding formula and make recommendation to Cabinet.

- i. to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to at 0%
- ii. to adjust the sparsity factor should actual funding received be lower than the indicative amount stated in the consultation
- iii. to distribute any unallocated funds in the following order prior to using surplus growth fund, (should actual funding received be higher than the indicative amount stated in the consultation):
 - d. Bring the Sparsity factor up to the NFF rates stated for 2023-24
 - e. Add to the MFG up to a maximum of 0.5% per 2023-24 guidance.
 - f. Go towards the amount being transferred to the high needs block up to a maximum of 0.5% (see Movements into Another Block)

Note that the final funding rates may change subject to affordability when the October 2022 pupil data and Schools Block DSG settlement is confirmed in late December 2022

All to Vote

- 4.2. Specifically approve to propose to transfer 0.5% between blocks for 2023-24 through a one-off transfer of the growth fund surplus and make recommendation to Cabinet.

All to Vote

- 4.3. Specifically agree the de-delegation proposals for maintained primary and maintained secondary schools as listed in Section 3.17 - 3.18 and appendix 2

Vote: Maintained primary representatives

Vote: Maintained secondary representatives

- 4.4. Specifically agree the central services funding allocations

- v. to continue to contribute £60,000 for the Emotional, Psychological and Social Wellbeing Service.
- vi. to top slice £223,000 from the Schools Block to fund the Phase Association (Devon SLS and DAG) for one year.
- vii. to retain the funding centrally at the increased £5.99 rate per pupil (£550,000) for Schools Admissions Service.
- viii. to fund Anycomms+ at a rate of £90 per year for a 3-year period,

All to Vote

ANGIE SINCLAIR
Director of Finance & Public Value

LISA BURSILL
Director of Children and Young People's Futures (Interim)

Please ask for: Adrian Fox
Adrian.fox@devon.gov.uk

Responses and Attendees

School Based By School Type	2019			2020			2021			2022			Variation from previous year	
	Total School Base	Total School Response	% Response	Total School Base	Total School Response	% Response	Total School Base	Total School Response	% Response	Total School Base	Total School Response	% Response	No of Schools	% change
	Maintained Primary	172	50	29%	162	45	28%	162	41	25%	162	75	46%	34
Maintained Secondary	8	7	88%	6	3	50%	6	4	67%	6	3	50%	(1)	-25%
Maintained Special Academy Primary	10	1	10%	9	1	11%	9	3	33%	9	1	11%	(2)	-67%
Academy Primary	138	35	25%	149	38	26%	149	7	5%	149	52	35%	45	643%
Academy Secondary	34	13	38%	36	12	33%	36	13	36%	36	10	28%	(3)	-23%
Academy Special	1	0	0%	1	0	0%	2	0	0%	2	0	0%	0	0%
	363	106	29%	363	99	27%	364	68	19%	364	141	39%		

By Phase	2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Total School Base	Total School Response	% Response	Total School Base	Total School Response	% Response	Total School Base	Total School Response	% Response	Total School Base	Total School Response	% Response
	All Primary	310	85	27%	311	83	27%	311	48	15%	311	127
All Secondary	42	20	48%	42	15	36%	42	17	40%	42	13	31%
All Special	11	1	9%	10	1	10%	11	3	27%	11	1	9%
	363	106	30%	363	99	27%	364	68	19%	364	141	39%

List of Responding Schools

[Alphabetical by School name within Phase within Status]

Maintained - Primary

Abbotskerswell Primary School	8782400	Maintained Primary
Appledore School	8782200	Maintained Primary
Ashwater Primary School	8782201	Maintained Primary
Awliscombe	8783300	Maintained Primary
Bickleigh Down Primary School	8783768	Maintained Primary
Bishops Nympton	8782210	Maintained Primary
Bishops Tawton Primary School	8782211	Maintained Primary
Bradley Barton	8782472	Maintained Primary
Branscombe CE Primary	8783002	Maintained Primary
Broadhembury CE Primary	8783003	Maintained Primary
Buckland Brewer Primary	8782218	Maintained Primary
Clyst Heath Nursery & Community Primary	8783777	Maintained Primary
Clyst St Mary School	8782009	Maintained Primary
Cornwood C of E Primary School	8783152	Maintained Primary
Countess Wear Community School	8782025	Maintained Primary
Culmstock Primary	8782015	Maintained Primary
Denbury Primary School	8782416	Maintained Primary
Doddiscombsleigh Primary	8782417	Maintained Primary
East Anstey Primary School	8782223	Maintained Primary
Exminster Community Primary	8782420	Maintained Primary
Farway CE Primary	8783311	Maintained Primary
Feniton C of E (VA) Primary School	8783312	Maintained Primary
Georgeham Church of England School	8783059	Maintained Primary
Halberton Primary School	8782716	Maintained Primary
Halwill Primary School	8782228	Maintained Primary
Hatherleigh Community Primary School	8782605	Maintained Primary
Hayward's Primary School	8782012	Maintained Primary
Hazeldown School	8782448	Maintained Primary
Heathcoat Primary School	8782723	Maintained Primary
Holsworthy C of E Primary School	8783063	Maintained Primary
Honiton Primary School	8782048	Maintained Primary

Ilfracombe Church of England Junior School	8783065	Maintained Primary
Ipplepen Primary	8782423	Maintained Primary
Kentisbeare Church of England Primary	8783013	Maintained Primary
Kings Nympton Primary School	8782235	Maintained Primary
Landscore Primary Schools	8782079	Maintained Primary
Langtree Community School	8782237	Maintained Primary
Littleham Primary	8783028	Maintained Primary
Lypstone C of E Primary School	8783014	Maintained Primary
Marldon C of E Primary	8783607	Maintained Primary
Marpool Primary	8782045	Maintained Primary
Marwood School	8782238	Maintained Primary
Montgomery Primary School	8782028	Maintained Primary
Newton Poppleford	8782054	Maintained Primary
Parkham Primary School	8782241	Maintained Primary
Payhembury Primary	8783016	Maintained Primary
Pinhoe C of E Primary	8783328	Maintained Primary
Plymtree C Of E Primary	8783017	Maintained Primary
Rackenford CofE Primary	8783772	Maintained Primary
Shaugh Prior Primary School	8782618	Maintained Primary
Shebbear Community School	8782243	Maintained Primary
Shirwell Primary School	8782244	Maintained Primary
St Catherine's C of E Primary	8783605	Maintained Primary
St Giles on the Heath Primary School	8782242	Maintained Primary
St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery	8783005	Maintained Primary
St Mary's C of E Primary	8783751	Maintained Primary
St Mary's CE Primary, Bideford	8783069	Maintained Primary
St Michael's C of E Primary	8783128	Maintained Primary
St Peter's Budleigh	8783304	Maintained Primary
Stoke Canon Church of England Primary School	8783024	Maintained Primary
Stokinteignhead School	8782445	Maintained Primary
The Beacon C of E (VA) Primary	8783309	Maintained Primary

Maintained - Primary

The Erme Primary School	8782609	Maintained Primary
The Grove	8782461	Maintained Primary
Tipton St. John	8783319	Maintained Primary
Uplowman CofE Primary School	8783026	Maintained Primary
West Hill Primary	8782058	Maintained Primary
Whimble Primary School	8782074	Maintained Primary
Willand School	8782075	Maintained Primary

Maintained - Secondary

South Molton CC	8784057	Maintained Secondary
St Peter's C of E VA Secondary School Exeter	8784607	Maintained Secondary

Maintained - Special

Lampard Community School	8787020	Maintained Special
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Academy - Primary

Alphington Primary School	8782012	Academy Primary
Ashburton Primary	8782401	Academy Primary
Ashleigh C of E Primary	8783070	Academy Primary
Aveton Gifford Primary School	8783100	Academy Primary
Bere Alston Primary Academy	8782094	Academy Primary
Bickleigh on Exe C of E Primary	8783165	Academy Primary
Blackpool CE Primary School	8783102	Academy Primary
Bolham Community Primary	8782717	Academy Primary
Bowhill Primary School	8782042	Academy Primary
Bratton Fleming Community Primary	8782214	Academy Primary
Brixington Primary Academy	8782051	Academy Primary
Buckfastleigh Primary	8782409	Academy Primary
Charleton Church of England Academy	8783104	Academy Primary
Chudleigh Knighton C of E Primary School	8783106	Academy Primary
Chulmleigh Primary School	8782219	Academy Primary
Colyton Primary Academy	8782096	Academy Primary

Willowbrook school	8782724	Maintained Primary
Winkleigh Primary School	8782252	Maintained Primary
Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School	8783011	Maintained Primary
Woodbury C of E Primary	8783321	Maintained Primary
Woodbury Salterton Primary	8783322	Maintained Primary
Woolserly Primary School	8782254	Maintained Primary

Tiverton High School	8784192	Maintained Secondary
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Dunsford Community Academy	8782418	Academy Primary
East Worlington Primary School	8782224	Academy Primary
Ermington Primary School	8782603	Academy Primary
Gatehouse Primary Academy	8782044	Academy Primary
Hayward's Primary School	8782012	Academy Primary
Hemyock Primary	8782047	Academy Primary
Holberton Primary School	8782607	Academy Primary
Ide Primary School	8782087	Academy Primary
Lady Seaward's C of E Primary School	8783307	Academy Primary
Landkey Community Primary Academy	8782236	Academy Primary
Lapford Community Primary School	8782260	Academy Primary
Littleton Primary Academy	8782049	Academy Primary
Manor Primary School	8782610	Academy Primary
Musbury Primary School	8782053	Academy Primary
Newton Ferrers CofE Primary School	8783156	Academy Primary
Orchard Vale Community School	8782727	Academy Primary

Academy - Primary

Rockbeare	8783317	Academy Primary
Salcombe CE Primary	8783124	Academy Primary
Sampford Peverell C of E Primary	8783019	Academy Primary
Sherford Vale School	8782071	Academy Primary
Sidbury C of E Primary	8783020	Academy Primary
Sidmouth CE Primary School	8783318	Academy Primary
St Andrew's Primary School	8782061	Academy Primary
St David's CofE Primary	8783008	Academy Primary
St Thomas Primary School	8782032	Academy Primary
Starcross Primary School	8782442	Academy Primary
Stowford School	8782709	Academy Primary

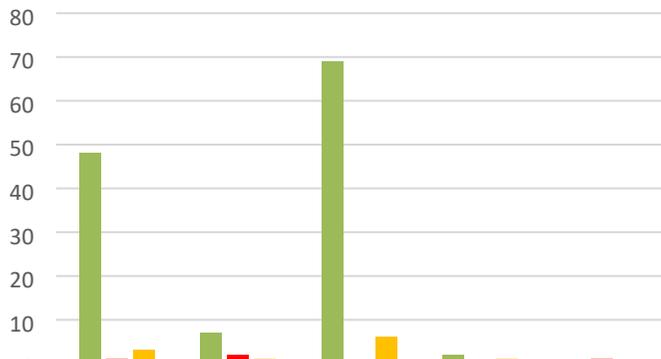
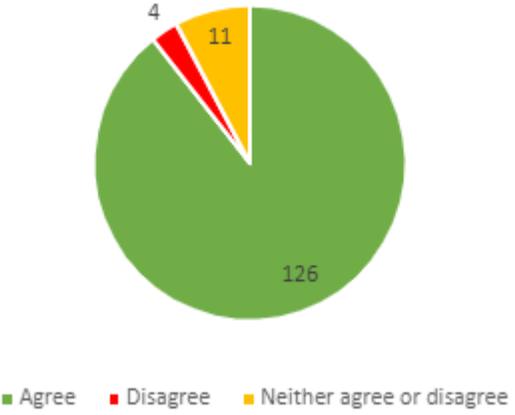
Teignmouth Community School, Mill Lane	8783774	Academy Primary
The Duchy School Bradninch	8782003	Academy Primary
Uffculme Primary	8782072	Academy Primary
Ugborough Primary	8782710	Academy Primary
Wembury Primary	8782624	Academy Primary
Westcliff Primary Academy	8782064	Academy Primary
Wilcombe Primary School	8782722	Academy Primary
Woodlands Park Primary	8782716	Academy Primary
Woodwater Primary	8782001	Academy Primary
Yealmpton Primary	8782626	Academy Primary

Academy Secondary

Atlantic academy	8784024	Academy Primary
Axe Valley Academy	8784021	Academy Primary
Braunton Academy	8784053	Academy Primary
Chulmleigh Community College	8784054	Academy Primary
Exmouth Community College	8784012	Academy Primary
Ivybridge Community College	8784184	Academy Primary
Pilton Community College	8784060	Academy Primary
South Dartmoor Community College	8784108	Academy Primary
The King's School	8784005	Academy Secondary
Uffculme School	8785405	Academy Primary

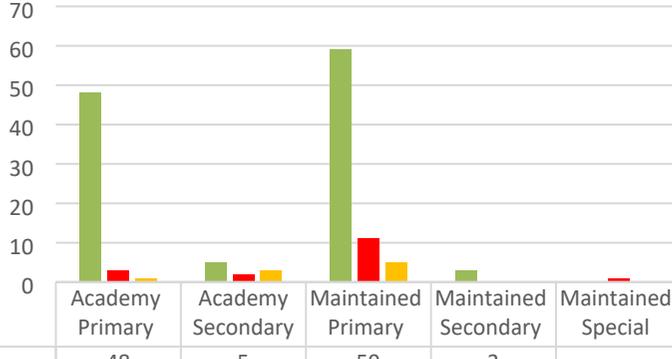
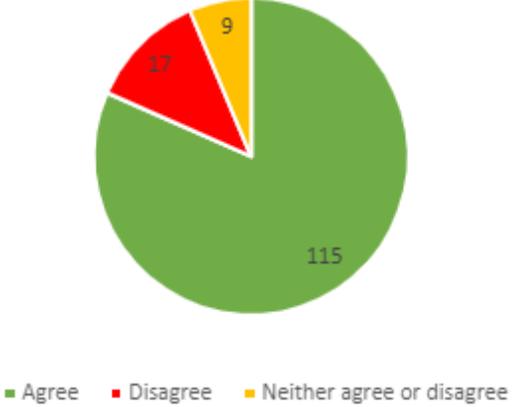
Schools Funding Proposals 1- 5

MFG of 0%



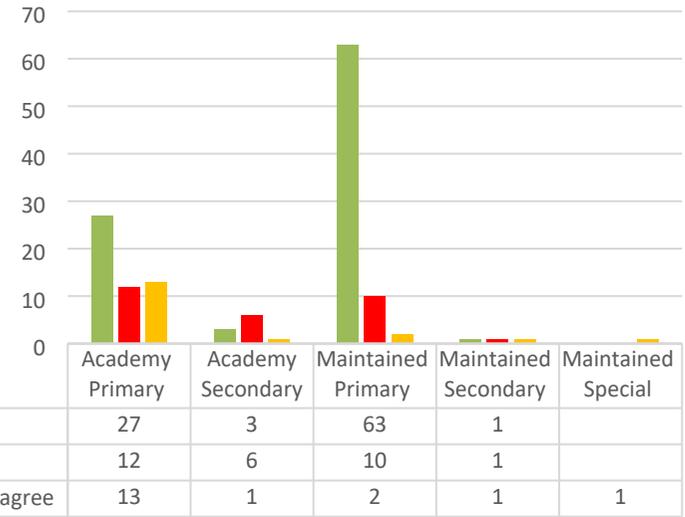
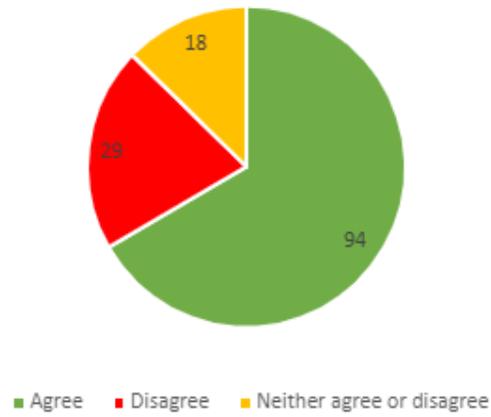
	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Maintained Special
Agree	48	7	69	2	
Disagree	1	2			1
Neither agree nor disagree	3	1	6	1	

Adjust Sparsity if lower funding

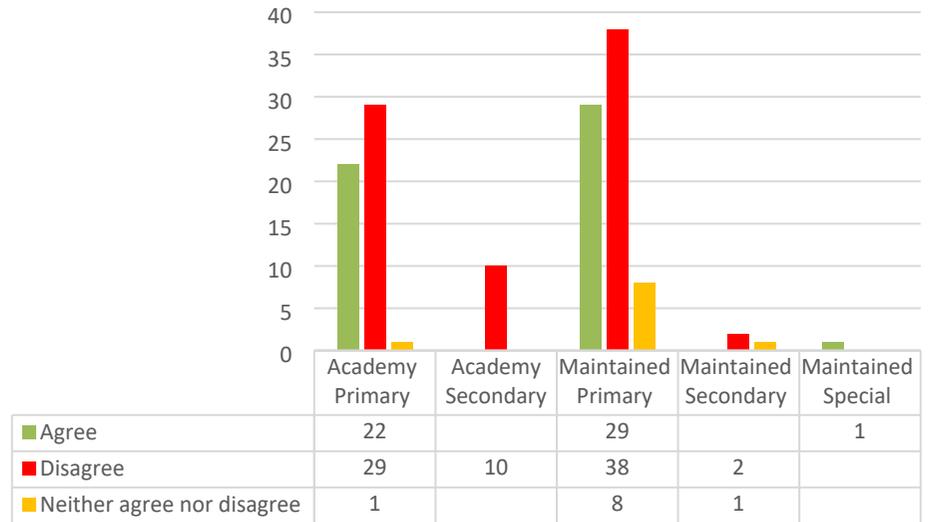
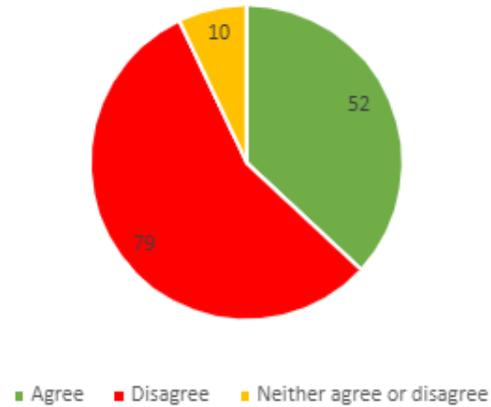


	Academy Primary	Academy Secondary	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary	Maintained Special
Agree	48	5	59	3	
Disagree	3	2	11		1
Neither agree nor disagree	1	3	5		

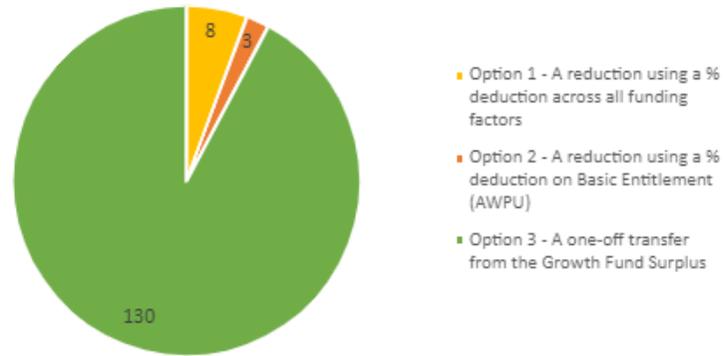
Distribute unallocated



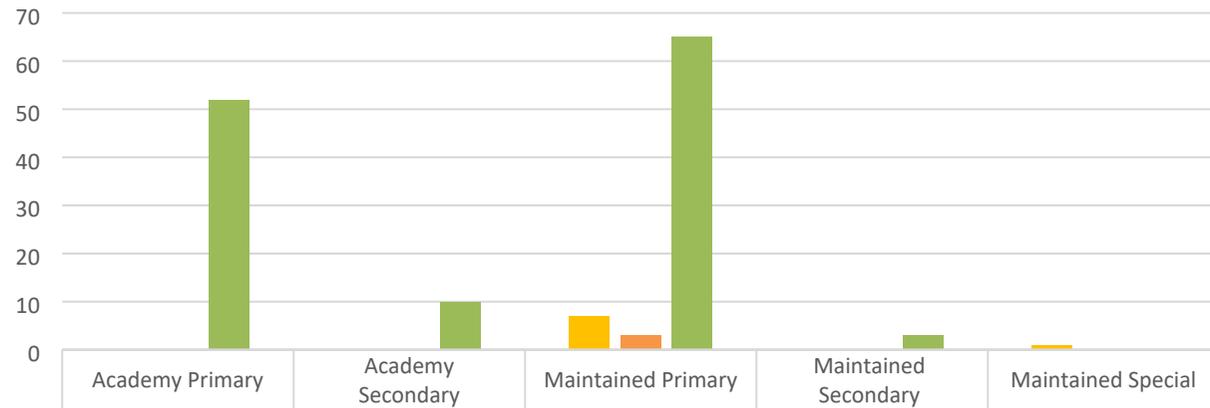
Transfer 0.5% to HNB



Funding of 0.5% Transfer to HNB



Funding of 0.5% Transfer to HNB



Option 1 - A reduction to the Schools Funding by using a % deduction across all funding factors			7		1
Option 2 - A reduction to the Schools Funding by using a % deduction on Basic Entitlement (AWPU)			3		
Option 3 - A one-off transfer from the Growth Fund Surplus	52	10	65	3	

Additional Comments made within the responses

- *Funded higher needs block does not seem to have an impact here in North Devon.*
- *Schools need the funding on the ground as there are often not enough alternative provision spaces or specialist places, so schools end up having to manage the high needs children for longer - hence I did not agree to the transfer to AP - some are independent provision centres too or academies, the maintained sector is hardest hit here*
- *I have ticked agree for proposal 4, but this is because I know we have no other choice than to do this, not because I agree with it. We all know the high needs block deficit has (predominately) come about and grown exponentially because of a lack of forward planning for alternative provision spaces capacity in Devon and the resultant untenable costs and fees from private settings.*

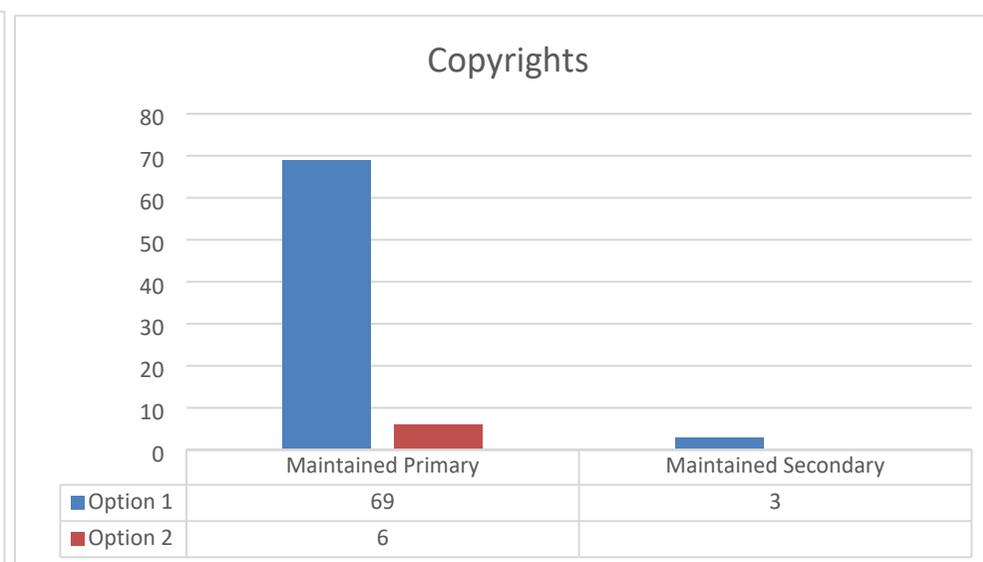
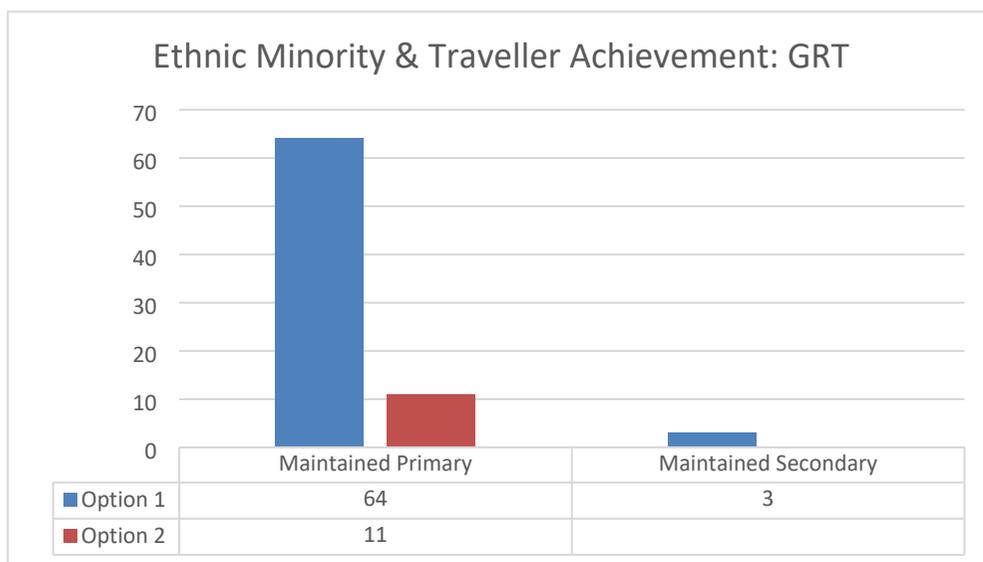
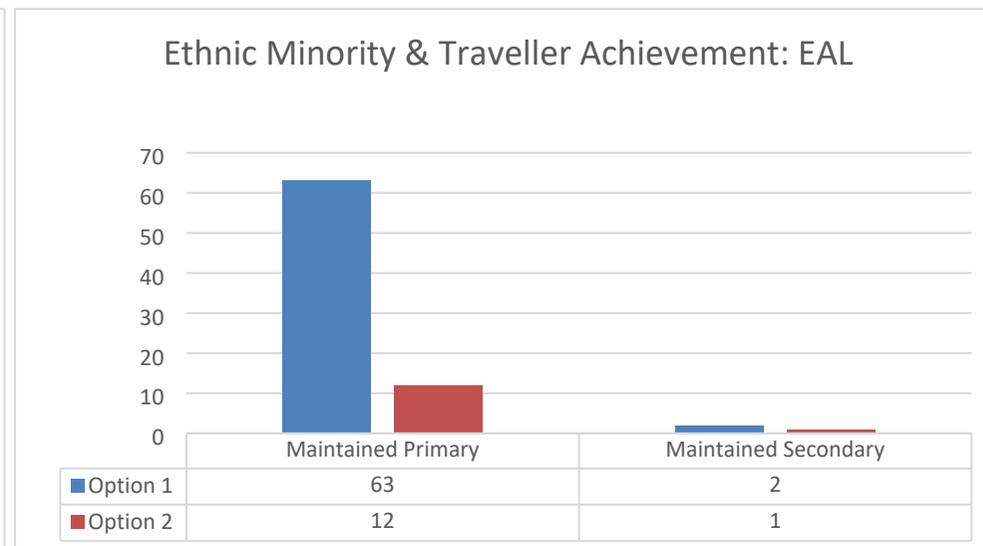
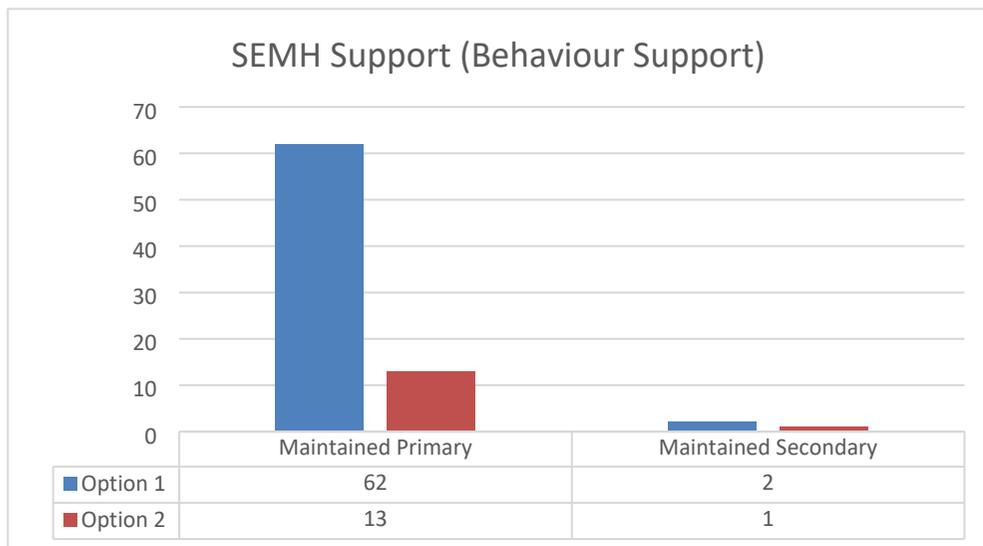
This is not the fault of schools or the other children and parents in the County who have their funding reduced year on year with the 0.5% transfer. Furthermore, as I mentioned in consultation meeting, I accept the savings projected allow access to the safety valve and therefore further savings up to 50% ish of the deficit, but this would still leave a deficit of £60.5million and a structure which is still clearly set to continue to make massive losses in year each year unless massive issues are addressed. The only way to reduce this fully is to address the issue of alternative provision costs in the County. I don't like being defeatist, but I just am not convinced the savings projected from such projects which haven't even started or been recruited to etc such as Team around the School will be there as stated. By the times this gets up and running the deficit is likely to already have grown too close to what it is projected to save in the first year. This is because I believe schools are already going above and beyond to attempt to meet the needs of many pupils with high levels of expertise and I don't agree with the assumption that some County based support will result in massive change for these children, the number of EHCPs or the number of applications for alternative provision.

Overall, it saddens me like it does every year that children in this County (and I speak as a Head and parent) suffer on 3 combined levels: The overall lack of funding increase nationally to match costs in school settings via a government who consistently expect us to do more with less alongside the amount of money wasted on academy based legal fees/structures/CEO salaries etc, the inherent unfairness in the funding formula seeing Devon as one of the worst funded counties in the UK and the historical mismanagement of this funding from Devon through failed initiatives and saving exercises which have had to no or negative impact over time. This all combines to make a very dour scenario. I hope the projects, saving mechanisms and safety valve all come together to allow this to be finally turned around.

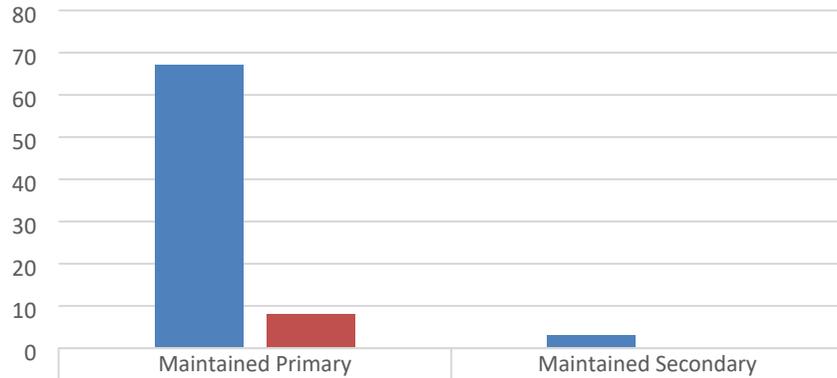
- *Surely savings could be made if the county invested more in their own alternative provision rather than paying private providers.*
- *SEND funding is wasted on the independent sector and unregulated AP. School need to retain as much funding in school as possible.*
- *Although we have agreed to proposal 3 we have reservations about the order of how any excess would be spent as the benefit is always towards small schools first. Could the order be different another year so that SEN benefited first?*
- *We strongly object to the change in the methodology that has been highlighted in this consultation that MPPFL is considered an AEN factor when calculating the High Needs Block allocation within the formula. As confirmed by Adrian Fox at the consultation meeting this change does not impact the main school budget share we are receiving. However, it does impact our SEN funding by around £150-£160k which is a direct cut to the most vulnerable students by DCC. Whilst we understand the financial pressures the HNB is under, saving funding in this manner disproportionately impacts one or 2 schools in Devon and is not equitable or fair. Under Proposal 4: We disagree with moving the funding from the schools block to the HNB as this would increase the amount of MPPFL that we would receive to ensure we get the minimum. As this is now considered as part of the AEN factors it could result in a reduction in SEN funding received by the school. Under proposal 5: The options choices presented ensures that Option 3 is selected as from those three it is the most palatable. However, other options should be considered such as moving the growth funding into schools directly which have a history of delivering outstanding VFM in provision.*

- *As a small rural school, we would wish to see DCC considering how funding is structured across fixed and variable funding streams given costs of rural schools (physical cost of the school is not determined by pupils on roll).*
- *We have responded to 4 as neither agree nor disagree because we only agree if option 5.1 is adopted. If the two other options in 5 were to be adopted, we disagree with proposal 4.*
- *Proposal 3 - Yes to the first two points– increasing sparsity and MFG but no to third which is to go towards HNB transfer. Proposal 4 - No. Better value achieved by leaving the money in schools block.*
- *The funding guarantee although in line with national is inadequate in supporting schools with the proposed teaching and support staff settlements which will leave the majority of schools with in-year deficits and lead to staffing cuts that will impact negatively on the quality of education.*
- *We're aware that there is a significant concern amongst Headteachers across Devon that once again the questions on this annual survey as not as transparent as they could be to make wise, informed and considered decisions - for example lack of briefing notes and lack of detail within the proposals.*
- *I have reviewed the different models for funding for my setting, however I cannot see how the reduction in IAR shortfall amount has been calculated. I have received confirmation of a likely reduction in this amount for the budget year 23/24. As a setting with significantly higher than average number of EHCPs, as well as above average vulnerable pupils, how can this be fair? The proposed funding arrangements appear to favour schools with lower numbers of complex pupils. If there is to be a reduction in funding, will the Local Authority confirm that there will be a reduction in the expected support for students with complex additional needs? Such a move to reduce funding from those who need it most will affect progress, attainment and social mobility for those who need it the most.*
- *Would reconsider the proposal to transfer funds out of growth fund to HNB if it was confirmed DCC had been accepted to the Safety Valve.*
- *Whilst it is appreciated that the LEA cannot alter the sums allocated directly from the government we still appear to be suffering an unequable reduction in overall funding compared to other areas of the country with little appreciation from central government that rural areas such as Devon and Cornwall incur so many other costs.*

Delegation and De-delegation

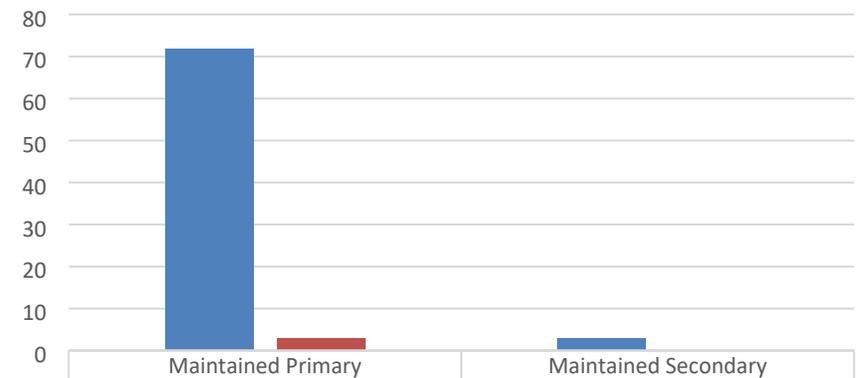


Trade Unions



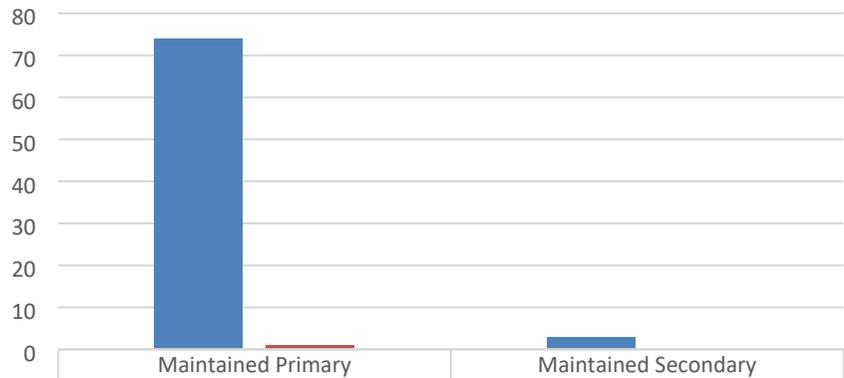
	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary
■ Option 1	67	3
■ Option 2	8	

Jury Service



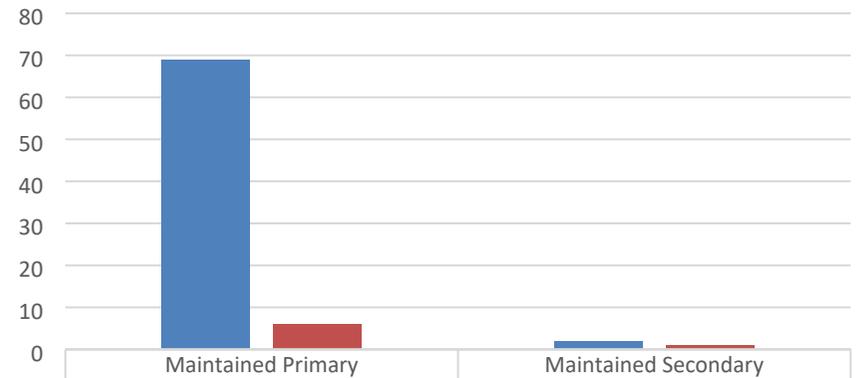
	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary
■ Option 1	72	3
■ Option 2	3	

Maternity

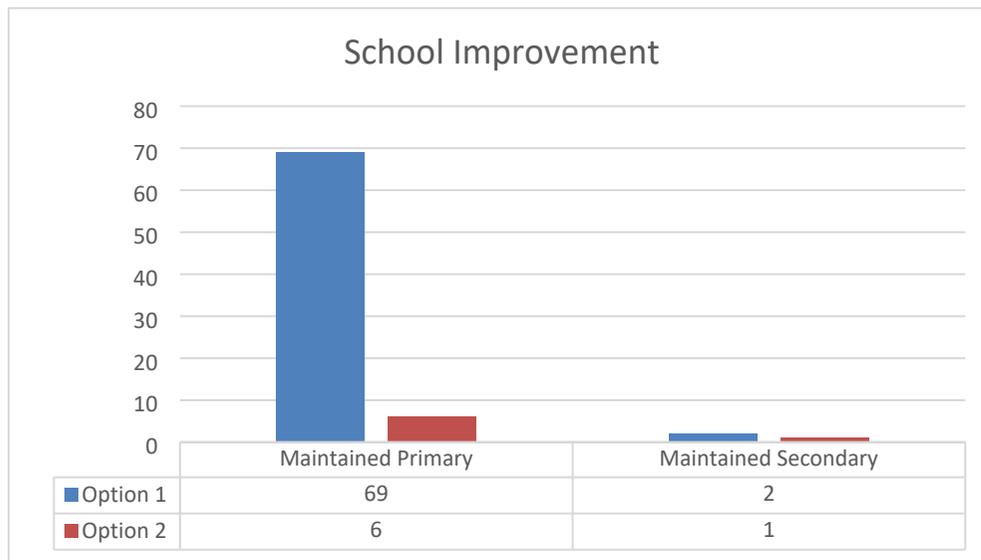


	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary
■ Option 1	74	3
■ Option 2	1	

Schools in Financial Difficulties



	Maintained Primary	Maintained Secondary
■ Option 1	69	2
■ Option 2	6	1



Key: Option 1 - De-delegate monies to DCC to provide the service

Option 2 - Monies remain delegated to school.

Additional Comments included in the response to the consultation:

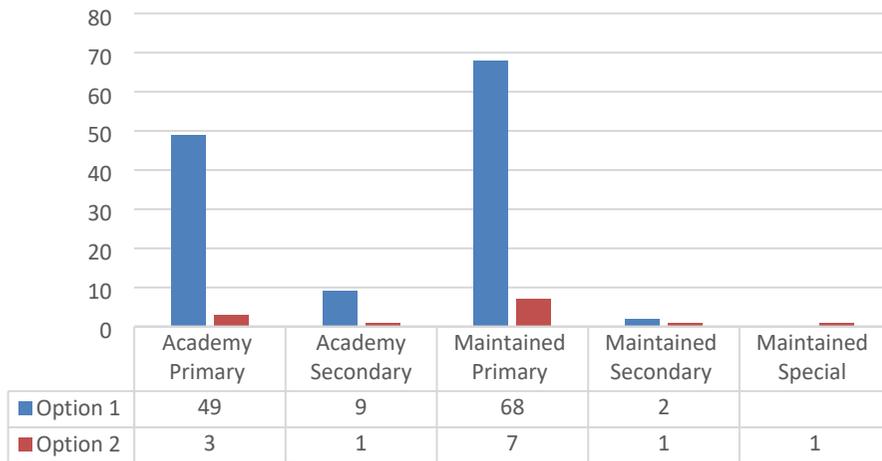
- *More services needed for Maintained schools on a non-traded basis. eg. HR support, policies not shared any longer. The question would be what is the value in remaining as a Devon Maintained school?"*
- *I do not wish to buy in to school leadership support as we have strong leadership capacity within my Federation and wider networks of schools across Devon. I am an accredited Education Adviser and Executive Head/ school leader.*
- *I'm concerned that splitting the response of those who want phase associations to continue between a 1 year and a 3 year option might risk the highest response percentage to be option 3. Will you be able to combine Option1 and Option2 responses to apply the continuation of the phase associations in this case if they total more than the option 3 responses?*
- *It is very unclear what the SI offer is and if this is a flat 'universal' offer for all schools or if it is variable according to need. The little that has been communicated is of no use to the vast majority of schools (HT recruitment, new HT induction) and therefore should be part of a traded offer. I would have really liked to have supported this, but I haven't been convinced that the service is well run and therefore proving to be value for money, there seems a risk that we are being asked to continue to pay for something that has not been functioning in the way schools have previously been told. At a time when budgets are being squeezed it is wrong to expect maintained schools to find this money from their budgets when it hasn't been made clear what it is they are paying for. I would rather take the £18 per pupil and get bespoke SI support for my school.*
- *School improvement - It would have been helpful to have details about the universal offer previous to the consultation. From what has been explained at the meeting not all of the universal offer would be relevant to most schools and maybe should be traded? (HT appointment)*

Budgets are tight and we need best value for money and to have high impact on our pupils. I am not sure how the offer might be adapted to meet the range of need across the County. A traded service might work better with the money in schools budgets and decisions made by school leaders/governors as to how best to support school improvement based upon context.

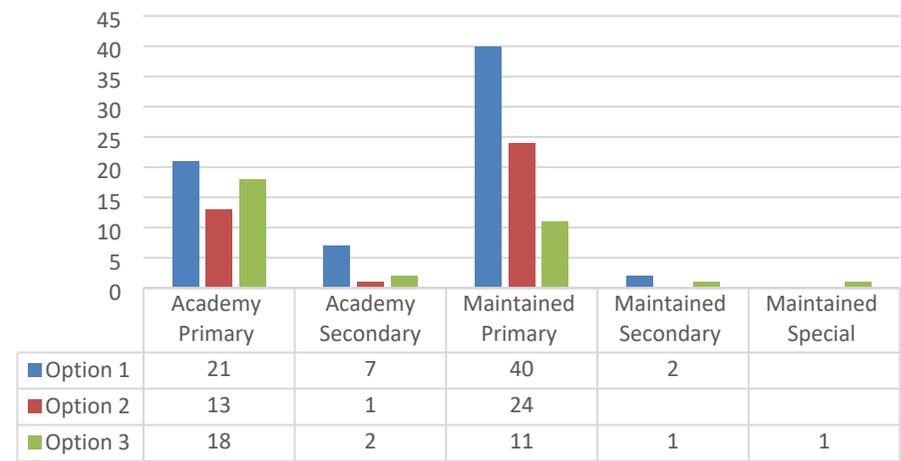
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- School improvement at £18.82 a pupil is too expensive. That would be equivalent to 40 days of external support at £500 per day.
Option 4: At 200K DSLS is overpriced and offers little or nothing to maintained schools. Give the money to school improvement and reduce the cost by 1/3.*
- We feel that the delegated and central services must be continued in order to support the best interests of all the children of Devon. If any were lost it would be to the long term detriment of children in this county as they would never be replaced. No school knows when they are going to need these services and sourcing them externally would be far more expensive.*
- The School Improvement service offer from DCC is an additional cost on schools which falls at a difficult time. It needs one year, 23/24, to clarify how DCC's statutory responsibilities can be delivered. After this we need to have a market led system as the DfE intends.*
- It is difficult to make future predictions as to what services to have delegated or de-delegated so far in advance. We assume that these responses will be non-binding and could change (according to circumstances) and that there may accordingly be some wriggle room to modify choices closer to the start of the financial year.*
- There was a lack of clarity about the NEW school improvement. What the benefits are compared to what is statutory and activities rarely used. It is such a significant amount that the finance policy does not give me the delegated authority to spend this amount without full FGB approval. It was a late addition to this year's consultation, plus the consultation window is too small to have taken to the FGB
Maybe for the transition year DCC should have just asked for 50% of amount, as DCC I believe covered 50% in last few previous years.
I am concerned about where maintained schools will get this service, but at this point cannot agree to the delegation of this large amount of money.*

Central Services

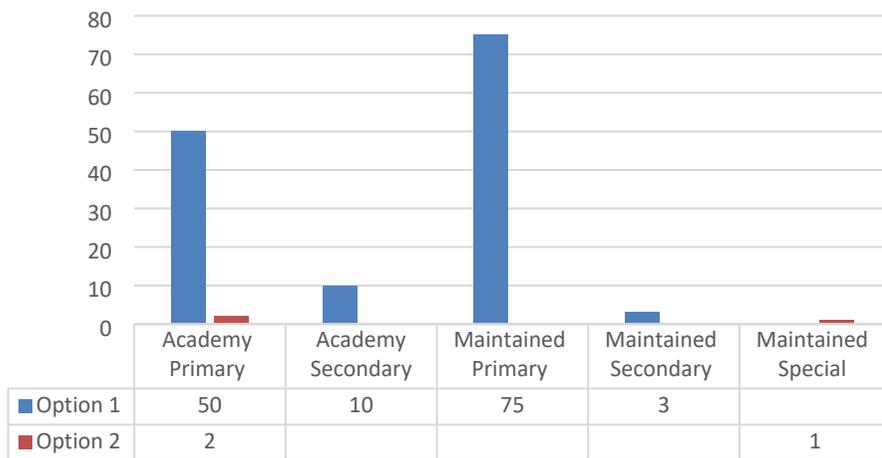
Emotional, Psychological & Social Wellbeing Service



Phase Associations



Admissions



Anycomms+

