

Appendix A

De-delegation & Education Functions: Guidance on Voting

For the purposes of making decisions on de-delegation, only maintained school members of the Schools' Forum may vote on the proposals. De-delegation is not an option for academies.

For items 1. Trade Union Facilities, 2. Schools' contingency for termination costs of schools in financial difficulty and 3. Free School Meal eligibility checking service only **mainstream** maintained school members of the Schools' Forum may vote on the proposals for their phase, as follows:

- primary representatives will vote on behalf of the primary phase.
- middle and secondary representatives will vote on behalf of the secondary phase which includes middle schools.

For Education Functions (School Improvement) this is a retention and all maintained schools' representatives (including special schools and learning centres) will vote together on behalf of all maintained schools.

When voting, members must take account of the views and needs of the maintained school community for their phase in Dorset (and wider maintained school community for item 4). To assist in this, the Local Authority has undertaken a consultation with schools, and a summary of the responses by phase has been circulated for the information of Forum members in advance of the meeting at which voting takes place.

When considering the consultation feedback from schools, **members are reminded that a consultation is a discussion aimed at ascertaining opinions / preference. It is not a straightforward vote.** Whilst responses to the consultation will provide Forum members with an indication of schools' views, members are reminded to think strategically about the best interests and needs of all the schools in their phase (and wider maintained school community for Education Functions) when deciding how to vote. Comments should be considered carefully alongside the percentage of votes.