



Local Governance Financial Management and Decision Making Appeals Policy

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“Learning together, to be the best we can be”

1. Scope

- 1.1. This policy applies to all academies, services and settings across Nexus MAT. The term “local governance” has been used to refer to all local governance boards and arrangements – regardless of the local naming convention - who the Nexus MAT Board of Directors has delegated decision making powers and responsibilities to.

2. Rationale

- 2.1. The Academy Trust Handbook states that a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) can pool general annual grant (GAG) funding from all its academies to form one central fund, but that any MAT which pools GAG is required to publish an appeals procedure.
- 2.2. Nexus MAT does **not** pool GAG. However, The Board of Directors believe it is important to provide academy Headteachers and local governance with a clear policy to follow should they wish to appeal a financial decision - or other decision - made by the Trust which directly affects the academy they have delegated responsibility for leading.

3. Appeals procedure

- 3.1. Where the Headteacher or Governor(s) of an academy feel(s) the academy has been treated unfairly by the Trust or have a grievance with the decision making of the Trust Executive or Board of Directors, then the matter must be raised as a matter of urgency at a local governance meeting (*note: an extraordinary meeting can be requested, as per the terms of reference*). Where the Headteacher has a specific grievance about their personal situation or circumstances, they **must** follow the Trust’s published grievance procedure and **not** this one.
- 3.2. Local governance must pass a motion by majority vote to lodge an official appeal and this must be minuted by the Clerk.
- 3.3. The appeal should then be committed in writing by the Chair of local governance to the Trust Board of Directors via clerkingservices@nexusmat.org. The Chair of local governance must detail in

the letter of appeal the outcome of any vote following the motion to submit the appeal (i.e. how many Governors in attendance, how many were for, against or abstained).

- 3.4. Upon receipt of the letter of appeal, the Chair of the Trust Board (or their nominated representative) will provide a response within 20 working days to the local governance Chair. It may be that this is an initial response to outline the steps the Chair is taking to ensure a more detailed response can be provided. The timescales for a more detailed response will be individual to each case but the Chair of the Trust Board must ensure that there is no undue delay in responding in full.
- 3.5. The Chair will ask the Clerk to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Directors of Nexus MAT to review the nature of the appeal and either agree the Trust response or agree the steps they will take to formulate their response. This may include inviting local governors to meet with Directors to discuss the appeal in more detail.
- 3.6. The Chair of the Trust Board must ensure that their response has been agreed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of Nexus MAT.
- 3.7. There is no right of referral once the Chair of the Trust Board has provided their final response to an appeal.