

Schools Forum			
REPORT TITLE	Revised Scheme for Financing Schools		
KEY DECISION	No	Item No.	8
WARD	N/A		
CLASS		Date	17th October 2019

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Schools Forum with a revised Scheme for Financing Schools.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Schools Forum is asked to :-
- 2.1.1 Note the revisions stated, noting that DfE directives do not require consultation however local variations do require consultation.
- 2.1.2 Approve the consultation paper as attached for wider consultation with maintained schools
- 2.1.3 Agree the duration of the consultation to take place from 1st November to the 15th December with outcomes of the consultation to be presented to Schools Forum in January 2020.

3 Background

Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain.

On 5th February 2019, the Department for Education (DfE) issued version 10 of the statutory guidance for local authorities on schemes for financing schools. It relates to Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and Schedule 14 to the act.

The guidance lists the provisions which a local authority's scheme must, should or may include. Schemes need not follow the format used in this guidance.

In making any changes to their schemes, local authorities must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their schools forum representing maintained schools. Local authorities must take this guidance into account when they revise their schemes, in

consultation with the schools forum.

Any DfE directives do not require revision and are effective from the date of publication by the DfE.

Schools Forum at its meeting in July was advised that a revised version of the Scheme for Delegation will be presented at the meeting in October. Appendix A provides the current Scheme for financing School which was last updated at 1st April 2016.

Since that period there have been changes both locally and by the DfE. This report aims to bring the Scheme for Financing Schools up to date as at the DfE guidance of the 4th February and Locally based on the July 2019 Schools Forum meeting.

- DfE directives that do not require approval -**Green is DfE directive**
- Changes supported by Forum which need formalisation **Pink is LA changes agreed with Schools Forum**
- Any further changes arising from this review of the scheme. **Blue is LA changes being proposed—and require consultation**
- DfE changes from prior years and do not require consultation -**Purple**

As stated, a consultation process will be required. Mindful of the level of changes arising from the different reasons, it is proposed that simple document accompany the “Draft Scheme for Financing Schools”. A sample is attached at Appendix B inviting schools to respond with any comments or changes.

The Consultation will take place between 1st November to the 15th December 2019, outcomes will be presented to Schools Forum at the January 2020 meeting.

4 Revisions to the Scheme for Financing Schools (Appendix A)

- 4.1 DfE directives that do not require approval (**Green**)
- 4.2 Changes supported by Forum which need formalisation -**Pink is LA changes agreed with Schools Forum**
 1. **4 October 2018 - Redundancy.** The Scheme has been updated to incorporate Lewisham position regarding redundancy payments into the DfE latest wording. Does not require further consultation.
 2. **11th July 2019 – Reporting changes** . The scheme has been updated to include the changes agreed at the July 2019, meeting.
 - a. **Budget Plan 1** Date extended to June the 15th unless a school has specifically asked for a further extension in which

case the date can be extended to the 30th June.

- b. **Budget Plan 2** Requirement for Schools to submit a revised Budget plan following census in October. Due date being 15th November, unless a school has specifically asked for a further extension in which case the date can be extended to the 30th November.
- c. **Monthly Monitoring** -Schools are required to undertake **monthly monitoring** and discuss the information with their Governing Body. There is no longer a requirement to submit the plans to the LA. The monitoring statements will be reviewed as part of the termly visits and considered alongside the budget plans.

4.3 The document has also been revised for changes that are **prior to the February 2019 guidance shown in purple**. These do not require consultation as they are DfE directives

4.4 The document has also been revised for changes proposed by the Local Authority which will form the main basis of consultation

5. Further Information

5.1 Should you require any additional information regarding the items contained in this report please contact:

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