

Agenda Item 6 – Scheme for Financing Schools

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides Schools Forum with an update on the consultation for the 'Scheme for Financing Schools'.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 The consultation period commenced on the 12th February, 2016. Each school was e-mailed a copy of the Scheme along with a checklist of the key actions required. An additional e-mail was sent to schools on 2nd March, 2016 requesting responses before the 24th March deadline stating whether the School agree or disagree with the Scheme. Schools were asked if they disagreed with the contents of the scheme to provide the reasons why, in order that concerns could be addressed and/or reported to the Schools Forum.
- 2.2 There was two drop in sessions organised at the CETL week commencing 29th February, 2016. Two schools were represented at both drop in sessions.
- 2.3 Two schools responded to the e mail of the 2nd March confirming that their school agreed with the Scheme. One further school submitted a detailed response to the consultation. This resulted in amendments as outlined in Section 3 below. The consultation closed on 24th March, 2016.

3. Proposed Amendments to the Scheme

- 3.1 The local authority has considered the feedback from the consultation. **Appendix A** provides a summary of the amendments to the scheme. The Schools Forum sub-group have yet to approve the Balances Protocol, therefore the guidance and process relating to the community chest has been removed. The sections effected by this amendment are Section 4 and Annex 3.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Schools Forum is asked to approve the revised Scheme for Financing Schools.

Appendix A

Scheme for Financing Schools - Amendments to the Scheme

Ref	Section	Updates	Reason
Introduction	The outline scheme	The regulations date is 2014 not 2012	Typo correction
2.1.2	Provision of Financial Information and Reports	Deadline for the submission of reports changed from the 1st of Month to 10th working day	Sufficient time to process the reconciliation file and income statements
		The reconciliation file and income statements will be sent to schools within 5 working days of the period end	Clarity of local authorities responsibilities
2.3	Submission of Budget Plans	The budget should take account of all increases in prices expected during the year. as this is the basis on which the school budget share is calculated	Removed
		Monthly budget monitoring reports will be provided to schools within 7 working days of the period end	Clarity of local authorities responsibilities
2.3.1	Submission of Financial Forecasts	Schools are required to submit a forward plan for review by the Assistant Director, Education, Learning & Skills by 31st August each year	Clarification of timescales
10.1	Insurance Cover	Annex 8 not 7	Typo correction
12.1	General	Responsibility for repairs and maintenance is delegated to schools including expenditure relating to school kitchens. since funding is delegated for school meals. Only capital expenditure is retained by the Authority.	Clarification. The liability for repairs and maintenance is delegated to all schools. The guidance requires Local authorities to delegate funding for repairs. i.e within the budget share.
12.3	Voluntary Aided Schools	insertion of "Capital" grant	Amendment
Annex 3	Clawback of Excessive Balances	References to the surplus protocol have been withdrawn until the Forum Sub-group have agreed it	Clarification / deletion