**Report to Hartlepool Schools’ Forum 9July 2021**

**From Amanda Whitehead (Assistant Director - Education)**

# Agenda Item 5 – Updates to Scheme for Financing Schools

1. **Introduction**
   1. Local authorities are required to have a Scheme for Financing Schools, setting out the relationship they have with their maintained schools.
   2. Each year, ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) publish changes required to the Scheme for Financing Schools. Local authorities are required to incorporate the changes into their Scheme and associated documentation, in consultation with schools.
   3. This report outlines the required changes to the existing Scheme and provides a revised Scheme at appendix A to reflect the updates.
2. **Background**
   1. ESFA published an update to the Scheme for Financing Schools statutory guidance in April 2021.
   2. Planned changes to the Scheme relating to accounting regulation changes for leases have been delayed as the regulation change itself has been deferred. Accounting changes were planned to come into effect on 1 April 2021 and have now been deferred to April 2022.
   3. To assist in preparation for the accounting regulation changes, maintained schools completed a lease information schedule during February this year. We will ask schools to refresh the information provided earlier this year ahead of the new implementation date for the regulations.

**3** **Changes to the Scheme**

3.1 There is only one change published by ESFA that is appropriate to the Hartlepool Scheme that relates to the Schools Financial Value Standard. This is listed in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Paragraph | Change |
| 2.16 Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) | Changes to guidance – deleted “All maintained schools with a delegated budget must submit the form to the local authority on or before 1st May” changed to  “Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, DfE has decided that the SFVS return should be delayed this year. This is to take account of the current pressures schools and local authorities are facing.  For the financial year 2020 to 2021, schools should submit their SFVS to their local authority by no later than 28 May 2021.”  Local authorities should submit their assurance statement to DfE within 6 weeks, by no later than 9 July 2021. |

3.2 In addition to the changes at paragraph 3.1, annex 1 of the Scheme has been updated to list the schools covered by the Scheme following the latest academy conversions.

3.3 The revised Scheme reflecting the changes outlined in this report is attached at appendix A. All changes and deletions are highlighted in yellow.

**4** **Recommendations**

4.1 Forum is asked to:

a) note the ESFA changes outlined in the report;

b) agree that the changes outlined are confirmed in the Scheme documentation and published.

**Please note that only Maintained School Forum Representatives are affected by these recommendations**