

Title of meeting: Schools Forum

Date of meeting: 23 May 2018

Subject: Scheme for Financing Schools

Report from: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

Report by: Beverley Pennekett, Finance Manager

Wards affected: All Wards

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report outlines the proposed changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools which reflect the revisions directed by the Department for Education (DfE).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Schools Forum members representing maintained schools approve the revised Scheme for Financing Schools attached at Appendix 1, to come into force on 1 June 2018.**

3. Background

- 3.1. The latest statutory guidance for Local Authorities issued by the DfE in respect of the Scheme for Financing Schools reflects the recent changes to legislation as set out in The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations. The proposed Portsmouth City Council Scheme for Financing Schools attached at Appendix 1, incorporates the requirements of the statutory guidance issued by the DfE. The proposed scheme will become effective on 1st June 2018 once approved by Schools Forum.
- 3.2. Consultation on the changes to the Scheme took place between the 24 April 2018 and 11 May 2018, with Head-teachers, Governors and Finance staff and any responses to the consultation have been reflected in the final document attached at Appendix 1.

4. Proposed Revisions

4.1. The proposed Scheme has been revised to ensure consistency of language, the correct use of titles for responsible officers together with updated hyperlinks to further information. The main revisions to the scheme are listed below and reflect both the changes to the statutory guidance issued by the DfE, together with the general revisions for changes to Portsmouth City Council policies and procedures.

Paragraph	Update
1.1	This section has been updated in line with the guidance issued by the Department for Education.
1.4	Directed Revision 2018 paragraph added
2.6	This section has been updates in line with guidance issued by the Department of Education
4.8	New paragraph describing the treatment of balances of closing schools
4.10	New paragraph entered under directed revision (See para. 1.4)
6.2.15	Description amended in line with guidance issued by Department of Education
10.1	Hyperlink to Insurance handbook updated and excess values updated
10.2	Wording amended following advice from the council's insurance department
10.2(e)	Claim forwarding paragraph following advice from the council's insurance department
10.10	New paragraph added to include mini bus training and licence requirements and compliance with the council's driving for work policy following advice from council's insurance department
11.2	Reference amended in line with the guidance issued by the Department for Education
11.10	Paragraph amended in line with the guidance issued by the Department for Education
13.5	Reference amended in line with the guidance from the Department for Education
Annex 1	Removal of schools who have converted to Academy status

Paragraph Update

Annex 1 Special unit places numbers amended to reflect places detailed in High Needs guidance notes for 2018-19

- 4.2. Schools were consulted on the proposed changes between the 24 April 2018 and 11 May 2018. A total of two responses were received, one school picked up an error on the list of maintained schools, which has been corrected in the final version. The other school confirmed that they had no comments on the proposed changes to the document.
- 4.3. The revised version of the Scheme for Financing Schools, once approved will be issued to schools (including Headteachers, Governors and Finance Staff) and made available on the intranet and the external website.

5. Reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 Part 4 of The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018 sets out the responsibilities in respect of the scheme for Financing Schools, including the required content which the scheme must deal with (Regulation 30) and the requirement for members of Schools Forum who represent schools maintained by the authority to approve revisions to the Scheme (Regulation 31). The recommendations contained within this report, seek approval from the relevant Schools Forum members to the proposed changes to Portsmouth City Council's Scheme for Financing Schools in line with those Regulations.

6. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 6.1 The Scheme for Financing Schools sets out the financial relationship, procedural arrangements and the statutory duties between maintained schools and the City Council. There is no direct impact on any particular equalities group and therefore does not require an equities impact assessment.

7. Legal comments

- 7.1 Approval of the recommendations in this report will enable the Council to meet its statutory duties in respect of the maintenance and publication of a scheme for financing the schools which it maintains. (Section 48 and Schedule 14 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Part 4 and Schedule 5 of the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018).

8. Finance comments

8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations contained within this report.

Signed by: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Scheme For Financing Schools

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Statutory Guidance - Schemes for Financing Schools	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: