

Title of meeting: Schools Forum

Date of meeting: 22 May 2019

Subject: Scheme for Financing Schools

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

Report by: Graham Smith, Interim 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 to the scheme as outlined in the guidance issued 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 2019.**

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.
- 3.2. There were no directed revisions to the Scheme in the guidance issued by the DfE for 2019 to 2020. The guidance included a number of changes across the whole of the document and these have been reflected in the Scheme for Financing Schools issued by Portsmouth City Council where appropriate. The proposed scheme will become effective on 1st June 2019 once approved by Schools Forum.

3.3 Consultation on the changes to the Scheme with Head-teachers, Governors and Finance Managers took place between the 27 March 2019 and 3 May 2019. 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 and any changes to relevant legislation. 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	Updated to reflect that no directed revisions were required by DfE to the 2019-20 Scheme.
1.5	Notification of Secretary of State power to make changes to the scheme after consultation.
2.4	Title of section amended to School Resource management
2.10	Paragraph added relating to "Buying for Schools" and web link to site.
2.14	Health and Safety Applicable legislation updated and expanded.
3.6	Additional instruction relating to procurement cards and charges added
5.1 & 5.4	Additional information on the treatment of land held by a charitable trust and the sale of assets including land and buildings
7.1	Updated link to Portsmouth City Council VAT guidance
8.4	Legislation relating to Teachers Pension Regulations updated
10.1	Claims levels following advice from Council insurance section
10.2 a, c, e	Insurance paragraphs amended following advice from Portsmouth City Council insurance section

Paragraph	Update
10.3,10.4a	Payment claims excess value amended following advice from Portsmouth City Council insurance section
10.9 d (ii)	Amended to reflect motoring insurance requirements following advice from Portsmouth City Council insurance section.
13.2	Removal of sentence relating to community facilities powers and updating with latest wording from DfE.
Annex 1	Removal of schools who have converted to Academy status
Annex 1	Special unit places numbers amended to reflect places agreed by Schools Forum and Cabinet member for 2019-20

4.2 Schools were consulted on the proposed changes between the 27 March 2019 and 3 May 2019. One response was received, relating to changes to para 6.2.2. Following consultation with HR and giving due consideration to the wording change, it was decided that the original wording should be reinstated. Details of this query and the PCC response can be found at Appendix 2.

4.3 The revised version of the Scheme for Financing Schools, once approved will be issued to schools (including Head teachers, Governors and Finance Managers) 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) (No.2) 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).

4. Finance comments

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

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

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Scheme for Financing Schools 2019-20 (Proposed)
- Appendix 2 - Scheme for Financing Schools Consultation Queries and Responses

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:

**Appendix 2 to Scheme for
Financing Schools 2019-20
Consultation for Schools Forum**

Consultation Queries and Responses

School Code	Query Raised	Response
1	Thank you for this, I can't see what the consultation is asking but it all looks fine other than 6.2.2., which needs some clarification. Who decides what is a good reason? and what is the procedure and appeal process?	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Thank you for your consultation response and for the query you raised relating to paragraph 6.2.2.</p> <p>After considering your query it was decided the original wording of the document should be reinstated and the final Scheme will be amended to reflect this.</p>