

Title of meeting: Schools Forum

Date of meeting: 21 October 2015

Subject: Scheme for Financing Schools

Report from: Di Smith, Interim Director of Children's Services

Report by: Richard Webb, 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 required by the Department for Education (DfE) and have been consulted on with schools.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Schools Forum approve the revised Scheme for Financing Schools attached at Appendix 1.

3. Background

- 3.1. In August 2015 the DfE issued the revised guidance for the Scheme for Financing Schools to include the recent changes to legislation as set out in The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014. These proposals have been incorporated within the Portsmouth City Council Scheme for Financing Schools. The revised scheme will become effective once approved by Schools Forum.
- 3.2. Consultation on the changes to the scheme took place between the 29th September 2015 and 9th October 2015, with Head-teachers, Governors and Finance staff and any responses to the consultation will be reported to the Forum at the meeting on the 21st October.

4. General Revisions

- 4.1. The document has been revised to ensure consistency of language, the correct use of titles for responsible officers and updated hyperlinks to further information.

5. Directed Revisions

- 5.1. The revisions to the scheme listed below have been directed by the DfE and must be implemented:
 - a. Paragraph 2.9 has been updated to reflect the requirement for maintained schools to publish a register of the business interests of their governors, along with any relationships with staff at the schools they govern.
 - b. Paragraph 3.6 has been updated to clarify that borrowing includes the use of finance leases and is not allowable

6. Significant Changes

- 6.1. The revisions to the scheme listed below have been implemented by the Local Authority and inform schools of changes to Portsmouth City Council policies and processes:
 - a. Paragraph 3.1 has been updated to reflect changes in the process for paying Element 3 top up to Special schools, Resource units and Alternative Provision units from September 2015.
 - b. Paragraph 4.5 has been updated to provide schools with more information and guidance on deficit recovery plans. An example deficit recovery plan has also been added in appendix 7.
- 6.2. The revised version of the Scheme for Financing Schools, once approved will be issued to schools (including Head Teachers, Governors and Finance Staff) and made available on the intranet and the external website.

7. Reasons for recommendations

The Scheme for Financing Schools has been amended to take account of the revisions required by the Department for Education as well as other local amendments and will become effective once approved by Schools Forum.

8. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

This report does not require an Equality impact Assessment as the proposals does not have any impact upon a particular equalities group.

9. Legal comments

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).

10. Head of Finance's comments

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

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Signed by: Di Smith, Interim Director of Children's Services

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?utm_source=EFA%20e-bulletin&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=e-bulletin&mxmroi=2305-8620-29964-0

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

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Signed by: