

MEETING:	SCHOOLS FORUM
DATE:	12 JULY 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	SCHOOL FUNDING SCHEME CHANGES
REPORT BY	SCHOOLS FINANCE MANAGER

1. CLASSIFICATION

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

3. Wards Affected

All Schools

4. Purpose

To approve the Department for Education (DfE) directed changes to the Herefordshire Scheme for Financing Schools effective from 1st September 2013.

5. Recommendation

THAT: the School Forum approves the Department for Education directed changes to the Herefordshire Scheme for Financing Schools effective from 1st September 2013.

6. Key Points Summary

The DfE has directed local authorities to make amendments to the local scheme for financing schools which includes the a number of minor amendments and drafting changes as follows;

- Inclusion of a summary – the Outline Scheme
- Updates to the Funding Framework (para 1.1) re Dedicated Schools Grant
- Inclusion of the Schools Financial Value Statement (para 2.16)
- Fraud policy requirements (para 2.17)
- Monthly payments for high needs top-up funding (para 3.1c)
- Income from lettings – schools may cross subsidise community& voluntary lettings from income from other lettings (para 5.1b)
- De-delegation of services – without the express permission of governing bodies provided approved by Schools Forum (para 6.1c)
- Costs incurred by the Council where a school fails to secure the provision

specified in a statement of SEN from funds delegated to the school in respect of SEN (para 6.2.15)

- Greater clarity re Teachers Pensions information and costs for schools using third party payroll providers (para 8.4)
- Special education Needs – new term setting out that schools are required to use their best endeavours in spending their budget to secure the special education needs of their pupils (para 11.7)
- VA schools capital – the required use of the DfE's de-minimus limit

7. Alternative Options

7.1 There are no alternative options for consideration.

8. Reasons for Recommendations

8.1 The Department for Education (DfE) has issued a summary of finance scheme changes effective for 2013/14. In making changes to their finance scheme, local authorities must consult all schools (head teachers and governing body) in their area and receive the approval of their Schools Forum.

9. Introduction and Background

9.1 A summary of the Scheme changes is attached as Appendix 1. The revised Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools is attached as an Appendix 2. The majority of changes are minor amendments, additions or deletions and drafting changes.

9.2 Schools have been consulted on the proposed changes to the funding scheme through Schools On-line (10th June 2013) and comments have been requested before the Schools Forum meeting. Forum members will be updated at the meeting if any comments are received. On previous occasions when the scheme has been updated, no comments have been received from schools

10. Key Considerations

10.1 None identified.

11. Community Impact

11.1 None.

12. Financial Implications

12.1 None specifically identified.

13. Equality and Human Rights

13.1 Equality and Human Rights issues will have been considered by the DfE in framing the directed Scheme amendments.

14. Legal Implications

14.1 The Council has a duty to comply with DfE directions and have regard to DfE guidance.

15. Risk Management

- 15.1 Risks are reduced to both schools and the Council by adopting the DfE's model finance scheme.

16. Consultees

- 16.1 All schools have been consulted via Schools On-line dated 10th June 2013. Any feedback will be reported to Schools Forum members at the meeting.

17. Appendices

- 17.1 Appendix 1: DfE Summary of Scheme Changes
- 17.2 Appendix 2: Revised Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.

18. Background Papers

- 18.1 None.