

Open Report



City Council

19 June 2017

Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18

Report of	Section 151 Officer
Report Author	Andrew Brindley – Accountant Helen Meigh – Finance Team Leader
Type of Decision	Policy Framework
Cabinet Member	Councillor Janine Bridges - Cabinet Member for Education and Economy
Wards Affected	All Wards
Stronger Together Priorities and how they are applicable:	
Support our residents to fulfil their potential	
<i>To support the strategic objective of supporting our schools to deliver a step change in educational attainment so that every young person has access to a school rated 'good' or better.</i>	

1.0 Purpose of Report:

1.1	To present the Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18 to Schools' Forum for consideration and approval.
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2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1	In accordance with the ' <i>Schemes for financing schools statutory guidance for local authorities December 2015</i> ' forum members representing maintained schools, only, are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider and approve the proposed changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18.
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3.0 Summary of Main Points:

3.1	The Scheme for Financing Schools sets out the financial relationship between the Authority and the maintained schools which it funds. It contains requirements relating to financial management and associated issue, which are binding on both the Authority and on the schools.
3.2	The Scheme is updated each year to reflect any required amendments and the Department for Education (DfE) directives. The LA is required to consult with Heads and governing bodies of maintained schools on proposed changes. The draft Scheme was issued to all maintained schools on the 15 th February 2017, via the SGFL Cloud part of the 2017-18 budget pack, for comment and feedback. To date no feedback or comments have been received since the issue of the document.

3.3	The main change to the Scheme was under section 2.3 ' <i>Submission of budget plans</i> ' where the requirement for each school to submit a budget plan was changed from the 31 st May to the 15 th May. Consultation on this change was carried out separately with maintained schools on the 13 th January 2017. Following consultation and feedback the change was unanimously approved.
3.4	An additional change to the Scheme was under section 2.1.6 ' <i>Writing off of debts</i> '. <i>The Change was to</i> provide clarity that any debt written off relating to a maintained school will be charged to the schools' budget and when a school converts to an academy and the maintained school still has outstanding debt this will be included in the schools' closing balance, therefore, the debt will become the responsibility of the new academy.
3.5	Apart from the above changes to the Scheme have only involved updates to relevant dates, name changes and European Union procurement thresholds.
3.6	The DfE have not yet published guidance for 2017 but should any DfE changes be required, at a later date, these will be made accordingly. The draft Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18 is included as a separate appendix.

Technical Appendix:

List of Background papers/sources of information used for this report:
Schemes for financing schools Statutory guidance for local authorities December 2015 Financial Regulations Contract Procedure Rules
List the appendices included as part of this report:
Scheme for Financing Schools 2017-18

Implications taken into consideration in this report *(Please list as separate appendix if required):*

Financial and Commercial:
Discussed within the report
Legal:
Relates to the regulations governing schools finance. Required for compliance with the School Funding Regulations
Human Resources:
No direct impact
Public Health and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012:
No direct impact
Equality Impact or Environmental Impact Assessments:
None
Key Risks:
None

Complete the following sections for Executive Decisions only i.e. Cabinet *

Options Considered:
1. Options are considered in the body of the report
Reason for Decision:
To comply with the School Funding Regulations governing schools finance

* In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012