

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**10<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Directorate of Children Learning and Skills**

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**Review of Scheme for Financing Schools**

**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The Schools' Forum (SF) meeting in July received a report setting out the timetable for reviewing the current Scheme for Financing Schools (SfFS) for maintained schools. The review was conducted over the summer and SF is now being consulted on the proposed changes.

**1.2 Background**

The scheme sets out the financial relationship between the authority and the maintained schools it funds. The DfE last reviewed the scheme in December 2015 and this review is to ensure the scheme complies with current statutory DfE guidance.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That SF agrees to consult maintained schools on the proposed changes to the SfFS.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 DfE rules require the approval of Schools' Forum for changes to the SfFS.

**4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

4.1 The proposed changes reflect:

- Aligning more closely the wording of several clauses with the DfE guidance
- Reflecting best practice elsewhere.

4.2 The council is consulting all mainstream schools' Head Teachers and Governing bodies in their area on a review of the current SfFS and in turn receive the approval of members of the SF representing maintained schools.

4.3 The main changes are summarised in the table below

<b>CLAUSE</b>	<b>PROPOSED CHANGES</b>
1.1.6	<b>Funding framework:</b> Additional clarification
2.3.1	<b>Submission of financial forecasts:</b> Additional clarification
2.4	<b>Efficiency and VFM:</b> Additional VFM emphasis

2.5	<b>Virement:</b> Additional clarification
2.7	<b>Separate External Audits:</b> Adoption of full DfE guidance
2.8	<b>Audit of voluntary and private funds:</b> Adoption of full DfE guidance
2.9	<b>Register of business and other interests:</b> Adoption of full DfE guidance
2.13.3	<b>Spending for the purposes of the school:</b> Adoption of full DfE guidance
2.15	<b>Notice of concern:</b> Adoption of full DfE guidance
2.16	<b>Schools Financial Value Standard:</b> Adoption of full DfE guidance
Appendix E	<b>Glossary of terms:</b> Adding a glossary to aid comprehension

4.4 The proposed timetable for consultation is set out below.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Activity</b>
10 October SF	Inform SF of proposed changes and agreement to consult
October	Consultation period ends 27 October
November	Draft December SF report with outcomes
5 December	SF review outcomes and agree changes
Start of Spring Term 2018	Council implement revised SfFS

## **5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 Not applicable.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### 6.1 Monitoring Officer

The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

### 6.2 Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

### 6.3 Access Implications

There are no access implications.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

7.1 All maintained schools.

Contact for further information

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