

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DERBYSHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM

17th October 2013

Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults

Review of the 2013-14 Derbyshire Scheme for Financing Schools

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To:

- a) Inform Schools Forum of the review of the Scheme
- b) Inform Schools Forum of the results of consulting with mainstream schools

2. **Information and Analysis**

The DfE has sent all authorities revised statutory guidance on Schemes for Financing Schools. This guidance on the content of Schemes includes a number of directed changes that the Secretary of State requires to be implemented from April 2013, and also calls for a compulsory sharing of these changes with all maintained schools with an opportunity for them to comment.

The revisions to certain sections of the 2013-14 Derbyshire Scheme that have been proposed are very much as directed by the requirements of this new guidance and mainly result from the new funding arrangements that were introduced from April 2013.

Some of the directed changes relate to the updating of recent Education Acts, titles, names, and changes in tense and, while these were highlighted to schools, we did not ask for any specific comments on those.

The opportunity was taken to update other text within the Derbyshire Scheme and schools were asked to comment and note these. A temporary appendix of any deletions made to the Scheme was also provided. Examples of some of the main changes relate to:

- Updated Purchasing & Tendering guidelines
- Removal of references to FMSiS and replacement with Schools Financial Value Standard
- Revised terminology relating to school budgets
- Updated Redundancy/Early Retirement costs section
- Removal of the General Teaching Council requirements
- Removal of references to optional delegated funding

We asked all Derbyshire mainstream schools for comments and views on the proposals and schools were asked to respond by Friday 4 October 2013. Four schools responded within the timeframe with an overall agreement on the suggested changes. No further changes are therefore proposed. Examples of the changes can be found in Appendix A.

3. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; environmental, financial, health, legal and human rights, personnel and property considerations.

4. Background Papers

Derbyshire Scheme for Financing Schools Consultation published September 2013.

5. Strategic Director's Recommendations

Schools Forum is asked to:

- a) Note the comments made by responding schools; and
- b) Approve the 2013-14 Derbyshire Scheme for Financing Schools.

Appendix A

Previous Text	2013-14 Amended Text
<p>2.10 Purchasing, tendering and contracting requirements</p> <p>d. to seek fewer than three tenders in respect of any contract with a value exceeding a total spend of: £10,000 plus 1% of a school's budget share (including Post 16 funding; excluding rent and rates) up to a combined maximum of £30,000</p>	<p>2.10 Purchasing, tendering and contracting requirements</p> <p>d. to seek fewer than three tenders in respect of any contract with a value exceeding a total spend of: £10,000 plus 1% of a school's budget (including Schools Block funding, Post 16 funding, Early Years funding and High Needs PLACE funding; excluding rates) up to a combined maximum of £30,000</p>
<p>3.1 Frequency of instalments</p> <p>The budget share will be made available to the governing body monthly.</p>	<p>3.1 Frequency of instalments</p> <p>The budget share will be made available to the governing body monthly. Top up payments for pupils with high needs should be made on a monthly basis following pupils in real time (i.e. not following the profile in the table below) unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with the provider.</p>
N/A as new in 2013-14	<p>6.1.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the authority may de-delegate funding for permitted services without the express permission of the governing body, provided this has been approved by the appropriate phase representatives of the Schools Forum.</p>
<p>11.12 Child protection</p> <p>The LA funds the cost of cover for absence due to child protection case conferences (or other LA initiated event).</p>	<p>11.10 Child protection</p> <p>The funding for the cost of cover for absence due to child protection case conferences has been delegated to schools as part of the 'Staff Costs: Other' allocation. However, if schools have exceptionally high costs in covering this function, they may apply for support from the pooled Contingency.</p>
<p>11.13 Redundancy/early retirement costs</p> <p>At its Cabinet meeting in March 2010, revised arrangements for sharing the costs of schools' premature retirements and redundancies were agreed. The changes resulted in the associated costs falling as follows:</p> <p>Redundancy (lump sum) charged centrally against schools' central DSG;</p> <p>Pension lump sum and on-going costs to schools' individual budget shares</p> <p>It should be noted that schools would still be expected to meet the costs of redundancy/ compensation and/or pension in full where the Authority's view was that the</p>	<p>11.11 Redundancy/early retirement costs</p> <p>The arrangements for sharing the costs of dismissal would normally be as follows:</p> <p>Redundancy (lump sum) charged to the authority's non schools budget;</p> <p>Pension lump sum and on-going costs charged to schools' individual delegated budget shares</p> <p>It should be noted that schools would be expected to meet the costs of redundancy in full where the authority's view was that the dismissals/retirements were not essential as permitted under Section 37 (4) of the Education Act 2002. The authority is also conscious that, in order to manage both the process</p>

<p>dismissals/retirements were not essential; these costs would continue to be met by individual schools as permitted under Section 37 (4) of the Education Act 2002.</p> <p>The Authority is also conscious that, in order to manage both the process of staffing reductions and schools' finances, a school will need to take early decisions to identify difficulties and may need to initiate the necessary processes before its depletes any balances to avoid falling into deficit; thus worsening the difficulties. Further information will be published in due course.</p>	<p>of staffing reductions and schools' finances, a school will need to take early decisions to identify difficulties and may need to initiate the necessary processes before its depletes any balances to avoid falling into deficit; thus worsening the difficulties. Further information can be found in Annex B.</p>
	<p>Section 2.16 – Remove requirement for Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) and replace with directed text for Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)</p>
	<p>Section 11.15 – Remove requirement for payments to General Teaching Council (GTC) – abolished from 1 April 2012</p>