

West Northants Schools forum: 4 July 2023

Agenda Item 8

West Northamptonshire Council Scheme for Financing Schools 2023-24

Appendices – Appendix A Scheme for Financing Schools 2023-24

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report is to provide the maintained schools members of West Northamptonshire Schools Forum with the updated Scheme for Financing Schools for 2023-24.
- 1.2 There are no votes required in relation to this agenda item, and it is for information only.

2 Background

- 2.1 Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain.
- 2.2 In making any changes to their schemes, other than Government directed revisions, local authorities must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their schools forum representing maintained schools.
- 2.3 This is covered by statutory guidance given by the Secretary of State pursuant to s.48(4) and paragraph 2A(2) of Schedule 14 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#).
- 2.4 Local authorities must take the [ESFA guidance on Schemes for financing schools](#) into account when they revise their schemes, in consultation with the schools forum.
- 2.5 The updated scheme as included in Appendix A includes no significant revisions, but brings in additional explanatory text as per the ESFA guidance document. It also includes additional text from the old NCC handbook, where previously readers were referred to a separate document.. Therefore, no consultation process is considered necessary for these minor changes.

3 Key Changes 2023-24

- 3.1 Key changes to the scheme are highlighted yellow within the document as included in Appendix A and are as follows:
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- Section 5.5 Income from sales of assets has been updated to include further guidance on the retention of funds from the sale of land assets.
- Any references to a Schools Financial Handbook have been removed and relevant text from the handbook has been incorporated into the SFF. These cover the areas income, VAT, schools balances, asset loan scheme and whistleblowing.

4 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no new financial implications arising from this revision of the scheme for financing schools.

5 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the information in this paper.

6 Recommendations for schools forum

- 6.1 That schools forum maintained members note the Scheme for financing schools 2023-24.

7 Next Steps

- 7.1 The scheme for financing schools 2023-24 will be stored on the Schools Information Hub Teams Site and emailed to maintained school bursars to share with their Heads and Governors.

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