



Item 10: Schools Forum July 2021 Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools

Introduction

- As a new Council, WNC needs to adopt and publish its Scheme for Financing Schools.
- Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. DfE publish guidance that lists the provisions which a local authority's scheme must, should or may include. Schemes do not need to follow the format used in the DfE guidance, except for annual updates called "directed revisions".
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools>

DfE Minimum Requirement

- In making any changes to schemes, other than 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. Local authorities must take this guidance into account when they revise their schemes, in consultation with the schools forum.
- We are proposing to initially adopt the DfE scheme recommended scheme for financing schools.

Adoption of the Scheme for WNC

- This aim of this paper is to notify maintained schools of the adoption of the updated standard DfE Scheme for Financing Schools which is published on the WNC Financial Management webpage:
- <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/information-for-school-staff/schools-finance-and-budgeting/Pages/financial-management-handbook.aspx>
- The Financial Handbook also includes “financial regulations” for schools and these sections will be updated over the coming months, in collaboration with other relevant departments (financial accounts, capital, procurement and tax teams etc). We will let maintained schools know of those updates when complete.

Contents of the Scheme

- Financial control
- Instalments of the budget share and banking arrangements
- The treatment of surplus and deficit balances arising in relation to budget shares
- Income
- The charging of school budget shares
- Taxation
- The provision of services and facilities by the local authority
- Private finance initiative (PFI)
- Insurance
- Responsibility for repairs and maintenance
- Community facilities
- Changes from Issue 12 of this guidance
- Annex A: The funding framework main features
- Annex B: Responsibility for redundancy and early retirement costs

Remit of the Scheme

- This scheme applies to all community, nursery, voluntary, foundation and special schools maintained by the WNC. This scheme does not apply to schools maintained by another authority nor academies.

Conclusion

- West Northamptonshire's Scheme for Financings Schools has been adopted.