

## **Schools Forum – 3 July 2018**

### **Update to the Staffordshire Scheme for Financing of Schools**

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Schools Forum approves the revised Staffordshire Scheme for Financing Schools (SSFS).

#### **Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People:**

#### **PART A**

#### **Why is it coming here – what decision is required?**

2. Any amendments to the SSFS require approval from Schools Forum.

#### **Reasons for recommendation**

3. Sections 2.3.1 – Removal as regulations no longer allow local authorities to issue budget shares for a multi-year period.
4. Section 4.8 Balances of closing and replacement schools
5. Section 4.10.2 – Borrowing for the purpose of funding premature retirement and redundancy cost. Removal of this paragraph
6. Section 6.2.15 Adjustment to this paragraph – “statements of SEN” to be replaced with “Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

#### **PART B**

#### **Background:**

7. The SSFS sets out the financial relationship between the authority and each of the maintained schools in Staffordshire. The SSFS is based on the DfE Statutory guidance for the scheme for financing schools. The scheme was last presented for updates in January 2018 and a copy is available on the Staffordshire Learning Net (SLN) to be viewed by any interested party.
8. Section 4.8. this section has been replaced with: “Where in the funding period, a school has been established or is subject to a prescribed alteration as a result of the closure of a school, a local authority may add an amount to the budget share of the new or enlarged school to reflect all or part of the unspent budget share (including any surplus carried over from previous funding periods) of the closing school for the funding period in which it closes.
9. Section 4.10.2. Following changes to the statutory guidance loans must only be used to assist schools in spreading the cost over more than one year of large one-off individual items of a capital nature that have a benefit to the school lasting more than one financial or academic year. Loans must not be used as a means of funding a deficit that has arisen because a school’s recurrent costs exceed its current income.

10. The SSFS includes, as annex A, a list of maintained schools to which the SSFS applies. Over the years, schools open, close, become academies or change names. This list is due to be updated to reflect the schools maintained by the authority as at 1 September 2018.

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**Annex A Applicable Schools**

To be updated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**ANNEX A**

Total 248 Maintained Schools as at 30.9.17