

Schools Forum – 13 February 2019

Update to the Staffordshire Scheme for Financing of Schools & Financial Regulations for 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

2.15 Additional reasons for the issue of a Notice of Concern:

- Failure to set an in year balanced budget by 31st May
- When a school is considered to be in financial difficulty as a result of the 5 year budget plan submission as at 31st December
- When a school causes any concern to the monitoring organisation

The post of Director of Finance and Resources has been deleted from the Staffordshire County Council structure and replaced by the Section 151 officer. The scheme has been updated to reflect this.

Amendments have been made to the Financial Regulations for Schools to reflect the most up to date version of the County-wide Financial Regulations.

PART B

Background:

3. 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 July 2018 and a copy is available on the Staffordshire Learning Net (SLN) to be viewed by any interested party.
4. Section 2.15 has been expanded to include an additional number of reasons why a Notice of Concern should be issued to an individual school. These reasons include failure to set an in year balanced budget by 31st during a particular year, when a school is considered to be in financial difficulty as a result of their 5 year budget plan submission as at 31st December or when a school causes any concern to the monitoring organisation. These additional factors

will ensure Notices of Concern are issued as early as possible to allow early, effective remedial action.

5. The scheme has been amended to reflect a change in organisational structure at Staffordshire Council; the post of Director of Finance and Resources has been replaced by the Section 151 officer.
6. The Financial Regulations for Schools have been updated to remain consistent with the local authority's main Financial Regulations.

Report author:

Author's Name: Melanie Scott, Senior Education Accountant, Entrust Support Services Ltd

Ext. No.: 07921277815

Annex A Applicable Schools

ANNEX A

Total 198 Maintained Schools as at 30.9.18