

## **Schools Forum – 28 March 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 Families and Communities:**

#### **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 31<sup>st</sup> May
- When the first two years of the school's published multi year modeller indicate the school can not operate within their in-year funding, and reserves are not sustainable
- Following a visit from the monitoring organisation, the school continues to cause sufficient concern to the local authority

#### **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 February 2019.
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 31<sup>st</sup> during a particular year, when a school's first two years are considered to be in financial difficulty as a result of their multi year budget submission as at 31<sup>st</sup> December or when a school causes sufficient concern to the local authority. These additional factors will ensure Notices of Concern are issued as early as possible to allow early, effective remedial action.
5. The scheme has also been amended in line with the DfE's issue 10 of statutory guidance for local authorities on schemes for financing schools.

**Report author:**

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

Ext. No.: 07921 277815

**Annex A Applicable Schools**

**ANNEX A**

Total 197 Maintained Schools as at 01/03/19