

Schools Forum – 15 October 2020

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

Recommendation

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

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, Financial Regulations for schools and Procurement Regulations require approval from Schools Forum.

Reasons for recommendation

3. The SSFS and Procurement Regulations have been reviewed and updated.

PART B

Background:

4. The following amendments have been made to the SSFS:
 - In section 2.3, submission of budget plans, a paragraph has been added that states “from the 2021/2022 funding year, each school must submit a 3-year budget forecast, by no later than 31st May each year. These forecasts will be considered, for example, in assessing each schools’ financial position and in undertaking effective financial planning, to support the local authority’s assessment of schools’ financial value standards” has been added.
 - The introduction to section 4.9 – Licensed deficit scheme - has been amended to read “When any school goes into deficit, schools must submit a recovery plan to the local authority”.

Bullet point (c), in section 4.9, currently states the maximum budget deficit covered by the scheme is £200,000 or 10% of the budget. This has been expanded to read “in exceptional circumstances, with an appropriate plan, some higher deficits may be considered subject to the approval of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities”.
5. The Procurement Regulations have been updated to reference the DfE’s buying framework. Section D2 now includes this an option for instances where a tender process has already been carried out.
6. Annually, as part of the Staffordshire County Council audit programme, schools are selected randomly or by request, to be subject to audit review. The 18th September school bag

contained a letter from the Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee summarising their findings. This is to be shared with governing bodies and Entrust colleagues to reinforce the importance of adhering to the regulations.

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Background Documents:

[Procurement Regulations for Schools October 2020](#) PDF 1 MB

[Staffordshire Scheme For Financing Schools October 2020](#) PDF 728 KB