

## **Schools Forum – 5 July 2016**

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

#### **Recommendation**

1. The Schools Forum approve the revised Staffordshire Scheme for Financing Schools (SSFS), see Appendix 1 which has been updated to reflect DfE directed revisions and the list of maintained schools covered by the scheme.

#### **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. The current scheme has become rather out of date as a result of revisions from the DfE. A consultation on the revised scheme was conducted the recommendation is that following no responses Schools Forum approved the revised scheme.

#### **PART B**

#### **Background:**

4. The SSFS sets out the financial relationship between the authority and each of the maintained schools in Staffordshire. The scheme was last updated in 2012 and a copy of the current version is available on the Staffordshire Learning Net (SLN) to be viewed by any interested party.
5. The DfE have issued directed revisions to the SSFS in 2013, 2014 and 2015. It was necessary to incorporate these revisions into the SSFS.
6. The scheme also needed to be updated due to the change to the cost sharing agreement on Redundancy/Early Retirement cost.
7. 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 has been updated to reflect the schools maintained by the authority as at 1 April 2016. It is planned to update this annex to the SSFS annually from now on.
8. A consultation with all schools produced no responses.

**Report author:**

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**List of background papers:**

**Appendix 1** Summary of revisions

## **Appendix 1 – Summary of revisions**

### **Directed revisions in respect of new funding arrangements from 1 April 2013**

Section 1.2.1 – Confirmation that legislation has already been amended to put maintained Pupil Referral Units (PRU's) in coverage

Section 1.4 – Only school forum members representing maintained schools should now approve scheme changes

Section 2.13 – Updated references to legislation

Section 3 – Confirmation that place led funding is included in arrangements for payments by instalment

Section 3.1 – Clarification that top up payments should be made monthly unless otherwise agreed

Section 4.7 - Funding to support schools in financial difficulty can only come from a de-delegated contingency for mainstream schools, or a central budget for special schools and PRU's

Section 5.5 - Clarification around bought in meals service, not centrally retained

Section 6 – Clarification that schools forum can agree de-delegation

Section 6.2.15 – Amended wording in relation to charging the school budget share if appropriate support has not been made for a HN pupil

Section 8.1 – Restriction to existing commitments for redundancy / PRC payments and removal of reference to non provision of LA services where funding has been provided to some schools only

Section 11.7 – Deletion of references to optional delegated funding

Section 12.4 – Deletion of provision for LA's to retain centrally retained money for R & M of school kitchens where funding for school meals has not been delegated

Section 1.1 – Clarification that school detail budgets are no longer included in S251 collection

Section 11.10 restriction of termination of employment costs funded from central schools budget to the value of previous year and existing commitments only

### **Directed revisions in February 2014**

Updated reference to legislation in the summary sheet

Section 2.13 – 'Academies' added – "These allow schools to spend their budgets on pupils who are on the roll of other maintained schools or academies".

Section 11.1 – Removed “This provision should not be broadened to attempt to create a general right of access to the school. Statutory guidance on that issue is contained in the Code of Practice on Local Authority / School Relations”.

### **2015 Directed revisions**

Section 6.2.25 – Costs incurred by the authority in administering admissions appeals, where the local authority is the admissions authority and the funding for admission appeals has been delegated to all schools as part of their formula allocation.

### **Amendments to the redundancy cost sharing agreement as previously agreed at Schools Forum.**

Section 11.10

- Schools are charged with 70% of the one-off costs of severance
- 30% of the one-off costs of severance are charged to a central budget within the Schools Budget
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### **Annex A Applicable Schools**

Updated to those schools of maintained status as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016