



# Northumberland County Council

## Wellbeing and Community Health

### Agenda Item 10

## SCHOOLS FORUM

07 July 2021

### Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools 2021/22

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

To review and approve the revised Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools for the period commencing 1 September 2021.

#### 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Schools Forum approved the attached draft Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools.

#### 3. Background

Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. This is reviewed on an annual basis, in consultation with Schools and the Schools Forum. We consulted on the draft Scheme via the e-courier on 8 June 2020 with a closing date of 30 June, and at the time of writing this report no comments have been received. A copy of the proposed Scheme for the academic year 2021/22 has been circulated with this report, proposed changes have been highlighted by in yellow, with the exception of those Schools to whom the Scheme is no longer applicable due to academisation, (shown as ~~strike through~~ in Annex A).

#### 4 Changes for September 2021

4.1 The ESFA made no substantive changes to the Scheme for 2021/2. Three minor changes have been made to reflect changes in timescales or clarifications made by the DfE in relation to

- the Schools Financial Value Standard (Section 2.16);
- borrowing by schools and IFRS (Section 3.6); and
- the treatment of licensed deficits (Section 4.9)

4.2 The latest updated ESFA guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools/schemes-for-financing-local-authority-maintained-schools>

#### 5 Further Developments

In conjunction with the Scheme for Financing Schools, it is also the intention to develop further supporting information for Schools detailing the educational, financial and governance thresholds that may determine the respective action the Council may take under the 4 stage approach detailed in section 1 of Scheme for Financing Schools. Further information will be shared subsequently with Forum in respect of this.

**B Parvin**  
**Education and Skills Business Manager**  
**25 June 2021**