



Northumberland County Council

Wellbeing and Community Health

Agenda Item 7

SCHOOLS FORUM

01 July 2020

Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools 2020/21

1. Purpose of the Report

To review and approve the revised Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools for the period commencing 1 September 2020.

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 ecourier on 9 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 2020/21 has been circulated with this report, proposed changes have been highlighted by "tracking" these in red within the document.

4 Changes for September 2020

4.1 The ESFA emphasised in their 01 April 2020 update that, in the context of Covid-19, proposed changes have been kept to a minimum, but these include :

- Risk protection arrangement (RPA) , an alternative to commercial insurance for academies, has been extended to include local authority maintained schools from 1 April 2020 (page 22); and
- Information on the treatment of community powers expenditure (page 1)

The latest updated guidance is available at:

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

4.2. As a council we have also taken the opportunity to clarify guidance to Schools in relation to the process for supporting "Schools causing concern", in line with the updated September 2019 guidance, and the respective powers available to the LA under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. We have specifically laid out the steps to be taken before the removal of a School's delegated budget, it is recognised that this is very much the last resort and the Council would look to work closely with and support a school to prevent this occurring.

B Parvin
Education and Skills Business Manager
23 June 2020