

Schools Forum**25th June 2020****Report of the Executive Director for Children's Services****Review of the Derbyshire Scheme for Financing Schools****1. Purpose of the Report**

To inform Schools Forum of a review of the Derbyshire Scheme for Financing Schools and to seek approval to a range of changes.

2. Information and Analysis

Local authorities are required to publish Schemes for Financing Schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. The DfE publishes statutory guidance which lists the provisions which a local authority's scheme must, should or may include.

In 2019 the Department for Education (DfE) revised its statutory guidance to all authorities regarding revisions required to their Schemes for Financing Schools. Full details of the updated statutory guidance can be found at:

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

Derbyshire's Scheme was last revised in 2018 and the latest proposals reflect directed changes by the DfE.

In making changes to its Scheme, other than for changes directed by the DfE, the Authority is required to consult all of its schools (heads and governing bodies) and receive approval from Schools Forum. Also, the Scheme, including any amendments to it, must be published on a website accessible to the general public, together with the date on which any amendments take effect.

On 25 February 2020 the Authority wrote to the head teachers and governing bodies of LA maintained schools on the revised Scheme, inviting any responses to be submitted by 20 March 2020. No responses were received within the consultation period although one was received after the deadline.

One further change is required. On 1 April 2020 the DfE published a further requirement in respect of insurance, as follows.

"Section 12: Insurance - Instead of taking out insurance, a school may join the Secretary of State's risk protection arrangement (RPA) for risks that are covered by the RPA.

The scheme should contain a provision which allows schools to join the RPA after 1 April 2020. Schools may do this individually when any insurance contract of which they are part expires. The scheme should also provide for all primary and/or secondary maintained schools to join the RPA collectively by agreeing through the schools forum to de-delegate funding.”

It is proposed that Derbyshire’s Scheme be amended to reflect the changes highlighted in Appendix 1 and the provisions relating to insurance in Section 12, as set out above.

The Scheme also includes at Annex A a list of the LA maintained schools. This Annex will be updated to reflect further conversions to academy status up to and including 1 June 2020.

3. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, legal & human rights, environmental, financial, social value, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Background Papers

Papers held in Children’s Services Finance.

5. Officer’s Recommendation

That Schools Forum approve:

- (i) the directed changes to the Scheme listed in Appendix 1;
- (ii) that the Scheme be amended to reflect the changes relating to schools insurance as set out in section 2 of the report; and
- (iii) changes to the list of LA maintained schools following further academy conversions as set out in Annex A of the Scheme.

JANE PARFREMENT
Executive Director for Children’s Services

New scheme para(s)	Change
1.4	New: paragraph that the Secretary of State can make directed revisions to the scheme
2.1.5	Expanded, to encourage a register of portable and attractive assets to be established
2.4	Change of title to School Resource Management
2.4	Change achieve efficiencies to effective management of resources
2.10	Clarification of the available advice for purchasing and tendering
2.16	Updated submission deadline for Schools Financial Value Standard to the Local Authority
3.6	New: Local Authorities may now permit the use of credit or charge cards
5.1	New: Land held by a charitable trust guidelines
6.2.2	Amendment regarding expenditure incurred in respect of resignations
8.1	Change in the conditions relating to centrally retained funds
8.2	Expanded, to highlight that there is no minimum period for terms of any agreement
8.4	Updated quoted legislation and updated expectation of monthly not annual returns
10.1	Amended to include evidence required for Insurance cover terms for the Authority's insurable interests
13.1	Updated to reflect changes in legislation of Children and Families Act 2014