

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Scheme for Financing Schools</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Schools Forum on 7 December 2022
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson

## **OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

This reports forms part of regular reporting to Schools Forum, informing areas of statutory decision making and improving visibility and consultation on wider Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) financial matters.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The maintained school members of Schools Forum are asked to note the content of the report.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Local Authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain.

National guidance explains the provisions the scheme must include, and local schemes should therefore be updated regularly in line with that changing guidance.

In making any changes to their schemes, other than directed revisions, local authorities must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their Schools Forum representing maintained schools.

Three key sections of the Wokingham scheme have been updated for 2022:

- 1) The requirement for LA maintained schools to submit a 3-year budget forecast to the Local Authority by 31<sup>st</sup> May each year.
- 2) The requirement for LA maintained schools to submit a recovery plan to the Local Authority when their deficit rises above 5% at 31<sup>st</sup> March of any year.
- 3) Instead of taking out insurance, LA maintained schools may join the Secretary of State's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) for risks that are covered by the RPA.

Changes made reflect directed revisions to the guidance and therefore the update is provided for information.

## Scheme for Financing Schools December 2022

### 01. Purpose of the Report

This report provides Schools Forum with an updated Scheme for Financing Schools which relates to all local authority maintained schools.

### 02. Recommendation

The maintained school members of Schools Forum are asked to note the content of this report.

### 03. Background

Local Authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools, setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain.

### 04. Summary of Updates

The scheme is updated each year by the ESFA with national updates. A revised scheme for Wokingham maintained schools is provided in Appendix A.

Changes made reflect general national updates as directed through the guidance.

The three main areas that have been updated are:

- 1) The requirement for LA maintained schools to submit a 3-year budget forecast to the Local Authority by 31<sup>st</sup> May each year.
- 2) The requirement for LA maintained schools to submit a recovery plan to the Local Authority when their deficit rises above 5% at 31<sup>st</sup> March of any year.
- 3) Instead of taking out insurance, LA maintained schools may join the Secretary of State's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) for risks that are covered by the RPA.

There is a section at the end of the document that highlights all amendments made.

<b>Contact</b> Katherine Vernon	<b>Service</b> Learning Achievement and Partnerships
---------------------------------	--