

# Scheme for Financing Schools

**Report being considered by:** Schools' Forum on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Report Author:** Melanie Ellis

**Item for:** Decision **By:** All Forum Members

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To approve the proposed consultation on the updated Scheme for Financing Schools to go to Schools Forum.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the updated Scheme for Financing Schools goes out to consultation for three weeks from 19 October to 9 November 2022 and that the updated Scheme is adopted after Schools Forum approval in December 2022.

<b>Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?</b>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------	------------------------------

## 3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools which set out the financial relationship between the local authority and the schools they maintain.
- 3.2 The Department for Education (DfE) issues statutory guidance for local authorities on schemes for financing schools. The DfE guidance lists the provisions which a local authority must, should or may include. Local schemes need not follow the exact format used in the DfE guidance, except for the text of directed revisions. The DfE guidance is updated annually. Issue 14 was published on 31 March and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools/schemes-for-financing-local-authority-maintained-schools#annex-c-application-of-schemes-for-financing-schools-to-the-community-facilities-power>
- 3.3 In making any changes to the scheme, a local authority must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their schools forum representing maintained schools.
- 3.4 The local authority has reviewed the current scheme to ensure that all sections are still appropriate. Following on from this review two changes are proposed.

## 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The proposed Scheme for Financing Schools (2022) is attached to this document, along with a guide to changes that have been made.

**5. Proposals**

- 5.1 A three week consultation with maintained schools be undertaken between 19 October and 9 November 2022.

**6. Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix A – West Berkshire Council Scheme for Financing Schools 2022 (updated for Issue 14)
- 6.2 Appendix B – Changes from Issue 13 of the Guidance