

**Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council**

**Dudley Schools Forum – 13 July 2005**

**Report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning**

**Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR)- Benchmarking Data**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To report to the Schools Forum the benchmarking data available from the Audit Commissions Consistent Financial Reporting website in relation to Dudley schools financial transactions during 2003/04.

**Background**

2. The Audit Commission website now holds data in relation to schools use of funds for the financial years 2002/03 and 2003/04. The website will be populated with 2004/05 data shortly now that the financial year has ended and final accounts have been prepared and are being audited.
3. Data from this website has been extracted previously by LEA officers and circulated to Dudley schools for both of the years available; schools can use this data for budget setting and other benchmarking exercises. Schools also have direct access to the website.
4. Whether schools access the site directly or they use the data circulated by the LEA, this currently only identifies that particular school against a similar category of schools within Dudley; where the other schools are anonymous. The LEA has access to the full database and can therefore identify all schools within a pre-defined range.
5. Discussions have been held over recent months regarding the sharing of this information with other Dudley schools and a copy of such information, which would be available to schools, is detailed as an appendix to this report.

## **Proposals**

6. It is proposed that Schools Forum note the content of this report and its confidential nature and advise the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning on whether schools would find this level of benchmarking information useful for future reference.
7. The circulation would be restricted to colleagues within the LEA and issued on a confidential basis.
8. The item would be also included on the Governing Body Agenda, either for discussion or to receive the CFR benchmarking data.

## **Finance**

9. There are no direct financial implications affecting the proposals identified.
10. Schools are required to submit their data to the CFR database by a due date, as prescribed by the DfES.

## **Law**

11. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

## **Equal Opportunities**

12. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

## **Recommendations**

13. Schools Forum is invited to advise the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning in respect of the proposals set out in this report.



---

**John Freeman**

**Director of Education and Lifelong Learning**

Contact Officer:

Karen Cocker, Education Finance Manager

[Karen.cocker@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.cocker@dudley.gov.uk)

Tel: 01384 815382