

Schools Forum 7 July 2009

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools – Consultation Outcomes

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Schools Forums approval to Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools, following the recent consultation.

Discussed at HTCF – BWG

2. Yes – 17 June 2009

Actions for Schools Forum

3. To accept the changes proposed to Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools.

Attachments to Report

4. Appendix 1 – Summary of consultation responses.

Mirella Harris

Senior Principal Accountant - Children's Services

19th June 2009

Schools Forum 7 July 2009

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools- Consultation

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Schools Forums approval to Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools, following the recent consultation.

Background

2. Under section 48 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 all local authorities are required to establish and maintain a scheme for financing school's setting out the relationship between the local authority and the schools it maintains.
3. The Schools Finance (England) Regulations 2008, schedule 5, lists the issues that all schemes should address. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) provides guidance to local authorities on the more detailed content of their schemes. This guidance is revised from time to time to reflect changes and amendments to legislation and policy directed through the School Finance Regulations.
4. Schools Forum is responsible for the approval of all amendments to the Scheme of Financing without the need for consultation with stakeholders. Full details of this responsibility can be found in Part 4 of the School Finance (England) Regulations 2008.
5. Two responses were received in respect of the consultation; both agreed with the proposed changes.
6. Since issuing the consultation document, Schools Forum agreed at the meeting on 2 June 2009 to amend the wording to Section 4.2.2 (iii) in relation to Controls on Surplus Balances. In particular, this related to the single status reserve and these changes have been incorporated in to the amended scheme.
7. A copy of the scheme can be found at Inside Dudley/Directorate/Children's Services/Electronic Library/Resources & Planning Division/Education Finance Team.
8. Taking into account the outcomes of the consultation the Director of Children's Services is recommending acceptance of the revisions proposed to Dudley's Scheme for Financing. The revised scheme will be immediately effective once

approved by Schools Forum.

Finance

9. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DCSF through the School Finance (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2008.
10. Schools Forums are regulated by the School Forums Regulations 2002 as already amended by the Schools Forums (Amendment) Regulations 2004 the Schools Forums (Amendment) 2005 Regulations and the Schools Forums (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
11. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct DCSF grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

12. 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.

Equality Impact

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

Recommendation

14. That Schools Forum approve the proposed revisions to Dudley's Scheme for Financing Schools as set out in the recent consultation document to also include an amendment (set out in paragraph 6 of this report), which provides for a revision to Section 4.2.2(iii) regarding single status reserve.



Mark Wyatt

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer:

Karen Cocker, Children's Services Finance Manager

Karen.cocker@dudley.gov.uk Tel: 01384 815382