|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Coventry Schools Forum 18th January 2024Agenda Item 8 |
|  |  |
| Education and Skills  |

**Title: Approval of Fair Funding Scheme of Delegation**

**Recommendation**

This item is for the School Forum to approve:

* **The Schools Forum should approve proposed change to the Fair Funding Scheme of Delegation as set out in section 2 of this report.**

**Voting:** Maintained Members

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

## Background

### Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, and Schedule 14 to the Act set out that Local Authorities should have a Scheme of Delegation.

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

### In making any changes to their schemes, local authorities must consult all schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their Schools Forum representing maintained schools. Local authorities must take this guidance into account when they revise their schemes, in consultation with the Schools Forum.

### The link to the draft consultation version of Fair Funding Scheme of Delegation is available at:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/3514/fair_funding_consultation>

## Proposed way forward

### There are three minor areas of change in the FFSD for 2024/25. These changes are summarised below:

#### Section 2.1.17 (Writing off Debts):

* This section has been amended to allow approval of writing off a debt of over £5,000 to be made by the Finance Manager for Children’s Social Care & Education, rather than the Director of Finance & Corporate Services as was previously the case.

#### Section 3.2.1 (Proportion of budget share payable at each instalment) & Section 3.5.2 (Bank & Building Society Accounts)

* Rates & gas contracts are removed as examples of deductions that could be made from budget shares or costs that are managed by the centre due to changes in processes.

#### Section 12.1.3 (School Responsibilities)

* Wording has been updated to show that capital works over £20,000 are still the school’s responsibility unless they form part of the city council’s condition capital programme of repairs. This is not a change to the policy, just a change to the wording to make the policy clear.

## Consultation

### The change set out in section 2 was included within the 2024/25 Fair Funding Consultation and stakeholders were asked to feed back any general comments they had in relation to the scheme or the proposed change.

### No responses were received that disagreed with the proposed change.

## Who does the report affect?

### The issues in this report affect all mainstream schools in the city as the scheme sets out the financial relationship between the LA and the schools it maintains.

**Report author(s):**

**Name and job title:** Hayley Greaves, Lead Accountant

**Service:** Financial Management

**Tel and email contact:** 024 7697 2194 Hayley.Greaves@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Contributor/approver name | Title | Directorate or organisation | Date doc /sent out/ | Date response received or approved |
| Sarah Kinsell | Finance Manager | Financial Management | 10/01/2024 | 11/01/2024 |

This report is published on the Schools Forum Section of the council's website:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings?status=&committee=28&filterList=Go>