

LA SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Schools Forum that a review and update of the Nottinghamshire Scheme for Financing Schools has taken place. To receive approval for the updated scheme from members of their Schools Forum representing maintained schools.

Information and Advice

2. Local authorities are required to publish a Scheme for Financing Schools. This scheme should be published on the LA website. The scheme explains the financial relationship between the local authority and the maintained schools which it funds. The scheme should make it clear that the scheme contains requirements relating to financial management and associated issues, required on both the local authority and on schools.
3. The DfE publishes statutory guidance which lists the provisions which a local authority's scheme must, should or may include. The DfE has made changes to the guidance and changes are required to bring the Nottinghamshire Scheme for Financing Schools in line with the DfE guidance.
4. The DfE guidance states that, in making any changes to their schemes, local authorities must consult all maintained schools in their area and receive the approval of the members of their Schools Forum representing maintained schools.
5. Where the Secretary of State directs a change to be made to the Scheme this does not require consultation or approval from members of their Schools Forum representing maintained schools.
6. On 14th November 2024 Schools Forum was informed that there had been a review and update of the Nottinghamshire County Council LA Scheme for Financing Schools and that there would be a consultation with maintained schools.
7. The consultation with maintained schools was conducted from 18th November 2024 to the 2nd December 2024. In total there were 17 responses (last update in 2021 received 3 responses).
8. Only a few schools commented on the update. All comments were positive and included: "Good update and much needed given EU and regulatory policy changes", "Very informative thank you" and "all looks fine. If anything it has simplified some of the processes, such as tenders."

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Forum maintained members approve the updated Scheme.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Rachel Livesey

Finance Business Partner - Children & Families

Chief Executive's Department

T: 0115 9772211

E: rachel.livesey@nottsc.gov.uk