

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**8 May 2013**

---

**Scheme for Financing Schools consultation**  
**(Director of Wellbeing)**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consult the Schools' Forum on amendments to the Scheme for Financing Schools following revised guidance from the DfE.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Schools' Forum accepts the revised changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools and discusses possible changes to the Balance Control Mechanism for surplus balances.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To comply with recommendations from the DfE.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**5.1 Recommended Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools.**

- 5.2 The DfE have recommended changes in the following areas. The attached appendix 1 has a fuller explanation of the proposed change to each area.

Introduction	Updated reference to regulations.
1.2.1	Confirmation that legislation has already been amended to put maintained Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) in coverage.
1.4	Only schools' forum members representing maintained schools should now approve scheme changes.
2.13	Updated references to legislation.
Section 3	Clarification that place-led funding is included in arrangements for payments by instalment.
3.1	Clarification that top up payments should be made monthly unless otherwise agreed.
4.7	Funding to support schools in financial difficulty can only come from a de-delegated contingency for mainstream schools, or a central budget for special schools and PRUs.

5.5	Clarification around bought in meals service, not centrally retained.
Section 6	Clarification that schools' forum can agree de-delegation.
6.2.15	Amended wording in relation to charging the school budget share if appropriate support has not been made for a High Needs pupil.
8.1	Restriction to existing commitments for redundancy/PRC payments and removal of reference to non-provision of LA services where funding has been provided to some schools only.
11.7	Deletion of references to optional delegated funding.
12.4	Removal of provision for LAs to retain centrally money for R&M of school kitchens where funding for school meals has not been delegated.
Annex A	Clarification that school detail budgets are no longer included in S251 collection.
Annex B	Restriction of termination of employment costs funded from central schools budget to value of previous year and existing commitments; clarity that contingency for schools in financial difficulty will need to be de-delegated.

- 5.3 The DfE have not made any further recommendations regarding the control of surplus balances. The wording of Slough's scheme is shown in Appendix 2 along with the current DfE guidance.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

### Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

### Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

### Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Not Applicable.

### Method of Consultation

7.2 Not Applicable.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Contact for further information

Steve Elson (Interim Finance, ECS)  
(01753 477209) [steve.elson@slough.gov.uk](mailto:steve.elson@slough.gov.uk)