

SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

SUBJECT:	Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools
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DATE:	22 November 2015
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The LA has undertaken a review of the Scheme for Financing Schools. This report highlights the changes to the Scheme and in line with school finance regulations seeks the Schools' Funding Forum approval for the updated Scheme as set out in Appendix 1. Also included are directed revisions from the Department for Education and minor cosmetic changes to reflect name changes.

FOR:	Approval (by maintained school and PRU members only)
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Scheme for Financing Schools is the statutory document that governs the relationship on 'all matters financial' between the Local Authority (LA) and maintained schools (including PRUs) in Kent. It does not apply to Academies. It is the umbrella document that contains the rules and regulations which other finance guidance feeds from.
- 1.2 The Scheme was last approved by this Forum in November 2014.
- 1.3 We have made some amendments to reflect directed revisions from the Department for Education, best practice in schools and minor cosmetic changes.

2. Summary of Scheme Changes

2.9	Directed revision: Requirement for maintained schools to publish a register of the business interests of their governors, along with any relationships with school staff.
3.6	Directed revision: Clarification that borrowing includes the use of the finance leases and is not allowable, with the exception of certain schemes approved by the Secretary of State. Currently only Salix loans have such approval.
4.9a	Amendment to clarify loan scheme reflecting content of item 8
6.2.20	Proposed directed revision: Minor change to section 6.2 so that local authorities are able to include funding for admission appeals. Please note that this revision is currently out to consultation (with a view to making this a DfE directed revision). We have included this change now on the basis that we don't intend coming back to the Forum for such a minor change. If this revision does not proceed as planned, we will remove it from the scheme and update the Forum at the next available meeting.
Section 13	A revised new look section to simplify the financial responsibility for repairs and maintenance in line with action from SFF meeting 22 May 2015

3. Recommendations

- 5.1 Maintained School and PRU members of the Forum are asked to APPROVE the amended version of the Scheme for Financial Schools as attached in Appendix 1.

Background Papers

[Link to Kelso for current version of Scheme for Finance Schools \(Nov 2014\)](#)