WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM   2nd July 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Scheme for Financing Schools – Revisions
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report informs Schools Forum of a number of revisions that are required to the Scheme for Financing Schools.

Revisions to Scheme
The Scheme for Financing schools establishes and describes the financial relationship between the Authority and the maintained schools which it funds. The scheme applies to maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools. It does not apply to academies or free schools. The scheme contains requirements relating to financial management and associated issues which are binding on both the Authority and its schools and covers areas such as:-

> Finance and audit
> Budgets
> Surplus and deficit balances
> Charging of school budget shares
> Provision of services

There are 2 changes required as detailed below:-

▪ Section 2.13 - add the word 'academies'
  Governing Bodies are free to spend budget shares for the purpose of the school subject to the provisions of this scheme. The Secretary of State, under Section 50 (3b) of the Standards and Framework Act may prescribe additional purposes for which expenditure of the budget share may occur. The school Budget Shares (Prescribed Purposes)(England) Regulations 2010 allows schools to spend their budget on pupils who are on the role of other maintained schools *or academies*. The LA may offer guidance from time to time as to what expenditure may suitably be regarded as for the purposes of the school. Governing Bodies should have regard to this guidance.

▪ Remove Academy conversions from Annex A – Wirral Maintained Schools.

Consultation
Schools will be consulted on the scheme change in September 2014 in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the results of which will be reported to the Forum in the autumn term.

Recommendation
That Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services