

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 28 September 2016

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Scheme for Financing Schools – Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out a number of areas where the Scheme for Financing Schools has been updated

Revisions to the scheme

Local Authorities are required by the Department for Education to agree and publish Schemes for Financing Schools. The Scheme is a document setting out the financial relationships between the LA and the Schools they maintain. In 2015 schools were consulted about 2 changes to the scheme that were directed by the DfE as set out below:-

- 2.9: A requirement for maintained schools to publish a register of the business interests of their governors, along with any relationships to staff.
- 3.6: Clarification that borrowing includes the use of finance leases and is not allowable, unless approved by the Secretary of State. Currently only Salix loans have such approval.

The consultation also included a revision to the section on arrangements for Procurement. Paragraph 2.10.1 (c) sets out the purchasing, tendering and contracting requirements for schools to seek 5 tenders and quotes (instead of 3). Responses from the consultation advised an amendment:-

- (c) to seek **three tenders or quotations** in respect of any contract with a value exceeding £10,000 in any one year.

Since then the LA's Contract Procedure Rules have been updated and a minor update to the Scheme's Procurement section is needed for maintained schools:-

- c) to seek a minimum of **three quotations** in respect of any contract with a between the values of £10,000 to £49,999.99 in any one year.
- d) to seek a minimum of **five quotations** in respect of any contract with a value exceeding £50,000 in any one year.

Other Changes

DfE guidance enables LA's to charge schools for the cost of administering school admission appeals – where these costs have already been delegated to schools.

There are no plans to amend the scheme for this at this time. If this is reconsidered at a later date schools will be consulted before any change is made.

Recommendation

That Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services