

Somerset Schools Forum
Wednesday 27 November 2019
1.30 pm Victoria Park Community Centre,
Bridgwater



To: The Members of the Somerset Schools Forum

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk and Monitoring Officer-
Date Not Specified

For further information about the meeting, please contact Andrew Randell / Mike Bryant -
arandell@somerset.gov.uk/mbryant@somerset.gov.uk or 01823 357268 or

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution
under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to
the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different
languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on
www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers



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AGENDA

- Item Somerset Schools Forum - 1.30 pm Wednesday 27 November 2019
- 1 **AOB Financial Management Scheme (Paper for Information Only)** (Pages 3 - 4)

AOB Paper for Information Only

– 27 November 2019

Item:

Financial Management Scheme

Lead Officer/Author: Jackie Cottey

Contact Details: Email: jcottey@somerset.gov.uk or telephone: 01823 359771

Summary:	<p>The Financial Management Scheme sets out the financial relationship between Somerset County Council (SCC) and the maintained schools that it funds.</p> <p>This paper provides a summary of the consultation process for proposed changes for the 2020/21 financial year.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>The Schools Forum is recommended to note the consultation arrangements for 2019/20.</p> <p>Members of the Forum are also invited to submit comments or recommendations for proposed changes to the Scheme. These should be forwarded to The Schools Funding and Accounting Team (Email: CYPFinance@somerset.gov.uk).</p>

1. Background

- 1.1.** The Financial Management Scheme sets out the financial relationship between Somerset County Council and the maintained schools that it funds. The Scheme contains requirements relating to financial management and associated issues and is binding on both the Local Authority and on schools through their respective Governing Bodies.
- 1.2.** Department for Education (DfE) guidance describes what is to be included in Schemes for Financing Schools and Schools Forums have the responsibility to approve any changes. Somerset's Financial Management Scheme sets out the requirements on schools in some detail and covers items such as banking, accounting and audit arrangements.
- 1.3.** Schools are required to follow Somerset County Council's requirements on financial controls and budget monitoring in the management of their delegated and devolved budgets. There are additional requirements for schools that operate their own bank accounts.
- 1.4.** Details of the consultation process for 2020/21 changes to the Scheme are summarised below:

- November 27 2019; Schools Forum is notified of the consultation process for proposed changes to the Financial Management Scheme for 2020/21.
- 13 December 2019; deadline for proposed amendments to the Scheme
- 6 January - 7 February 2020; Consultation with all schools re proposals.
- March 2020; Schools Forum to make decision on changes.
- April 2020; Implementation of revised Financial Management Scheme (to be effective from 1 April 2020). Notification to schools on iPost.

2. Implications – financial and other

- 2.1.** The Scheme sets out the extent to which the local authority can exert financial influence over a school, and it is important that the right balance is struck between controls and safeguarding.

3. Background papers

- 3.1.** Somerset's current [Financial Management Scheme 2019/20](#)