

**Schools Forum**

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

**Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools – Outcome of Consultation**

**Introduction**

1. Local authorities are required to publish schemes for financing schools setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools they maintain. Any amendments to schemes must be consulted on with all schools and be approved by the Schools Forum.
2. Following updated DfE statutory guidance on funding schemes for local authorities a paper was presented to the Forum which set out proposed changes, including those directed by DfE, to Stockton's Scheme. The Forum signaled its support for the proposals prior to consultation with all maintained schools Governing Bodies during the Autumn term. The purpose of this paper is to report back following that consultation.
3. The scheme does not cover academies which have separate arrangements in place.

**Scheme Changes**

4. Only one response to the proposed changes was received. The Governing Body concerned resolved to accept the changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools noting that most of the changes were necessary to comply with the revised legislation.
5. They did however, have a specific concern that related to decisions around redundancy costs. The default position is that the LA would be responsible for redundancy costs whereas the school would be responsible for any pension related costs. Some examples, as defined by DfE are provided in considering a variation to these arrangements as were set out in Appendix 2 to

the Consultation . The responder asked specifically if the Governing Body have any right of appeal without taking the LA to court.

6. There is a complaints procedure included in the Campus Stockton arrangements and in the event of any dispute, it would be this that would be followed.

### **Recommendation**

7. The scheme be amended as originally proposed.

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