

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/2018 REPORT NO. 25

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Schools Forum – 17 January 2018

REPORT OF:

Executive Director of Children's Services

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Item: 5c

**Subject: Scheme for Financing
Maintained Schools – 2018/19: Update**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Schools Forum is advised that there no significant changes proposed to the Scheme for Financing.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum is asked to note the contents of this report.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The Local Authority is required to agree and publish annually a Scheme for Financing Maintained Schools. The Scheme aims to cover the financial relationship between maintained schools and the Local Authority.
- 3.2 Officers have reviewed the current Scheme and Forum Members are advised that no significant amendments are proposed for the Scheme for 2018/19, other than maintained schools being advised of the changes to the EU procurement thresholds.

4. UPDATES

- 4.1 Following the Forum discussion on retention of surplus balances held by maintained schools, consideration was given as to whether an amendment to the Scheme was required to reflect the Forum recommendation for the Education Resources Group to be involved in the assessment carried out by the Authority on the retention of surplus balances. The review has highlighted this proposal does not require an amendment to the Scheme, but would be addressed as part of the Authority's processes for assessing retention of surplus balances.
- 4.2 Although the procurement thresholds detailed in the Scheme for Financing do not highlight the EU thresholds, schools are required to be aware of these thresholds and, where affected, ensure any procurement for goods and services is in line with the latest EU thresholds.

The EU thresholds for tendering have been revised to reflect the latest currency rates for the Pound against the Euro and the new thresholds are as follows:

- Goods & Services: £181,302
- Works £4,551,413
- Light Touch Regime for Services: £615,278

- 4.3 Schools will be advised of revisions to the EU thresholds.