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**WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

**SCHOOLS’ FORUM – 20 MARCH 2017**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF RESOURCES**

**SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS**

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| **Purpose of the report**  This report sets out the result of the consultation on the new Scheme for Financing Schools.  **FOR APPROVAL** |

1. **Introduction**
   1. A report was tabled at the Schools Forum meeting on 16 January 2017 to provide the draft version of the Scheme for Financing Schools.
   2. In accordance with the provisions within the policy, the draft was circulated to all maintained schools within the Authority as part of a 6-week consultation period which ended on 3 March 2017.
2. **Background**
   1. The Scheme for Financing Schools (the “policy”) sets out the financial relationship between the Local Authority and the maintained schools that it funds. It contains requirements relating to the financial management of its schools.
   2. The existing Local Authority policy was last updated in January 2007. The Department for Education (DfE) released new guidance in December 2015 (issue 8), outlining the provisions that a local authority's policy must, should or may include.
3. **Consultation responses**
   1. The table below sets out comments raised by schools as part of the consultation:

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| **No.** | **Comment** | **Action taken** |
| 1 | A query was raised in relation to the new financial reporting requirements for schools to follow in section 2 of the Scheme. | The Scheme was brought up to date to reflect the new financial reporting requirements for schools, to allow the Authority to effectively oversee school budgets and support where necessary. Schools will be provided further support and guidance to deliver against the new reporting requirements. |
| 2 | A query was raised in relation to the submission of budgets in section 2 of the Scheme. | The Authority will be provided further communications and support to deliver against the new budget submission requirements. |
| 3 | A query was raised about changes to the purchasing, tendering and contracting requirements. | It was agreed to amend these provisions. |
| 4 | Minor amendments to clarify wording throughout | Some provisions have been reworded to make provisions clearer. |

1. **Recommendations**
   1. Schools Forum are asked to:
      * note the consultation responses
      * review and approve the new policy in Appendix A.

**Andrew Tagg**

**Head of Resources**

**Clare Chamberlain**

**Tri-Borough Executive Director – Children’s Services**

**Background Papers**

* Department for Education: Statutory guidance for local authorities on producing and amending school financing schemes. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools>

**Annexes**

* Annex A – Proposed Scheme for Financing Schools