

Schools Forum

20 June 2024

Section 48 – Scheme for the Financing of Schools

This report relates to Maintained Schools only.

Recommendation

1. The maintained school representatives of Schools Forum are asked to approve the updated Scheme (which reflects the proposed changes brought to March's Schools Forum meeting and the changes that were issued by Department for Education (DfE) at the end of March 2024).
2. Schools Forum are asked to note that this report will move to the September meeting of each year, with consultation taking place over the summer, in order to better align with the timing of issued changes by DfE.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Warwickshire County Council is required to publish a Scheme for financing of schools (sometimes referred to as the "Section 48 Scheme") setting out the financial relationship between the authority and the schools it maintains.
- 1.2. The guidance the local authority publishes covers the following legislation:
 - Section 48 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, and Schedule 14 to the Act.
 - Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2018.
- 1.3. The Department for Education (DfE) periodically revise their guidance to Local Authorities. As such, the changes reflect the DfE's most updated guidance including the March 2024 changes.
- 1.4. The changes can be summarised as follows:
 - I. An amendment to confirm the position of proceeds from the sale of assets.

- II. Clarity on the treatment of leases and leasing activities for maintained schools, including information on which leases will have blanket consent from the Secretary of State.

For reference, the changes to the Warwickshire Section 48 Scheme can be seen in [purple](#) on **pages 15 and 19** of Item **3a** of this agenda item.

2. Outcome of Consultation

- 2.1. Following the March Schools Forum meeting, the draft changes were sent to all maintained schools for consultation. The consultation started on Monday 25 March and concluded on Tuesday 21 May 2024. DfE issued another change after the Schools Forum meeting. Therefore, an updated consultation paper was sent to all maintained schools on 9 April and the closing date was extended by two weeks, from 7 May to 21 May 2024.
- 2.2. Four responses were received; but no objections to the proposed amendments were made. In addition, a typo has been corrected which was picked up as a part of the comments received.

Table of Comments

Ref	Comment
1	Have read the documentation and I have no objections on this.
2	School has read the consultation document and has no questions or objections. The section about sale of land is clear.
3	I agree with all revisions.
4	School and governing body are in favour of the amendments to the Scheme as set out in the consultation.

- 2.3. As no objections were made, it is recommended that Schools Forum approve the proposed amendments to the Scheme.
- 2.4. The Scheme for the financing of Schools will be published on the Schools Forum Section of the council's website (internet) and the purple colour will be removed before publishing.

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