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**Meeting:** Schools Forum  
**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013  
**Subject:** Revisions to the Scheme for Financing Schools  
**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services  
**Summary:** To note the Directed revisions to the Scheme for Financing Schools

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Contact Officer: Dawn Hill, Technology House, Bedford

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

Reason for urgency  
(if appropriate)

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. To approve the amendments to the Central Bedfordshire's Scheme for Financing Schools in line with the Department for Education's (DfE) directed revisions.**

#### **Background**

1. The Scheme for Financing Schools sets out the financial relationship between the authority and the schools which it maintains. It is based on the legislative provisions in Section 45-53 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and The School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.
2. DfE directed revisions to the scheme are not subject to consultation with Schools governing bodies or head teachers, however they do need to be submitted to the schools forum for their approval. The authority may apply to the Secretary of State for approval in the event of the forum rejecting a proposal or approving it subject to modifications that are not acceptable to the authority.
3. The LA as a minimum must publish the scheme on a website which is accessible to the general public and that any revised versions must be published by the date the revisions come into force, together with a statement that the revised scheme comes into force on that date. A revised scheme with track changes will be available on the Schools website.

## **Update**

4. The DfE revisions are in respect of new funding arrangements from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. These revisions also include some amendments to the wording and references to provide additional clarity.
5. The changes are as follows:
  - Introduction - Update the reference to regulations
  - Section 1.2.1 - Confirmation that legislation has already been amended to put maintained Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) in coverage
  - Section 1.4 - Only schools forum members representing maintained schools should now approve scheme changes
  - Section 3 – Clarification that place led funding is included in arrangements for payments by instalment
  - Section 3.1 - Clarification that top up payments should be made monthly unless otherwise agreed
  - Section 4.7 - Funding to support schools in financial difficulty can only come from a de-delegated contingency for mainstream schools, or a central budget for special schools and PRUs.
  - Section 5.5 - Clarification around bought in meals service, not centrally retained
  - Section 6 - Clarification that schools forum can agree de-delegation
  - Section 6.2.15 - Amended wording in relation to charging the school budget share if appropriate support has not been made for a High Need pupil
  - Section 8.1 - Restriction to existing commitments for redundancy / PRC payments and removal of reference to non-provision of LA services where funding has been provided to some schools only
  - Section 11.7 - Deletion of references to optional delegated funding
  - Section 12.4 - Removal of provision for LAs to retain centrally money for R&M of school kitchens where funding for school meals has not been delegated
  - Clarification that school detail budgets are no longer included in S251 collection
  - Restriction of termination of employment costs funded from central schools budget to value of previous year and existing commitments, clarity that contingency for schools in financial difficulty will need to be de-delegated
6. Maintained schools will be informed of the changes to Central Bedfordshire's Scheme for Financing Schools by way of tracked changes to the existing scheme available on the Schools website

## **Recommendation**

7. To approve the DfE directed changes to Central Bedfordshire's Scheme for Financing Schools.

## **Appendices:**

None