

Scheme for Financing Schools School Forum 12th October 2023

Introduction

The Local Authority on an annual basis makes available a policy on the scheme for financing schools. This is published on our council website [scheme-for-financing-schools-23-24.pdf](https://www.torbay.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/scheme-for-financing-schools-23-24.pdf) ([torbay.gov.uk](https://www.torbay.gov.uk)) and a reference to the document is made at the point of confirming schools budgets. The scheme for financing schools is an important document as it sets out the expectations of what services will be provided centrally, the expectations on schools and the mechanisms in which funding will be awarded.

Considerations for School Forum

In preparation for Academic Year 2024- 2025 we are taking steps to review the scheme for financing schools and want to ensure that this is drafted with Schools Forum and has the necessary governance in place.

At present it is proposed that the majority of the document remains the same as in previous years, however sections highlighted in yellow are proposed to change to provide greater clarity to education providers and the local authority over decision making. This is to ensure that we are transparent to all providers and can have reasonable expectations that we can agree to from all parties.

The working document of the officers is attached to the report. However it should be noted that Officers want to ensure that the impacts on schools are understood and all agreements mitigate against risks.

Recommendation and Decision

We request that school forum establish a short task and finish group with officers to review the document and provide back to Forum a proposed version for ratification in January 2024, ready for financial implementation in April 2024.

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