

DFES CONSULTATIONS

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1. Purpose

To inform the Schools Forum of the recently concluded DfES consultation on amendments to the School Finance Regulations 2006.

To inform the Schools Forum of the current DfES consultation on Identifying Schools by name on the Financial Benchmarking website.

2. Recommendations

That the Schools Forum notes the report. The Schools Forum may wish to consider responding to the current consultation.

3. School Finance Regulations Consultation

The consultation was issued by the DfES on the 4th January and concluded on 31st January. The amendments and additions relate to policy developments that have already been consulted on or represent minor changes to some technical aspects of the regulations.

There are 5 changes that were being consulted on:

1. To specify a date that a new school will receive funding from
2. To allow a differentiated AWPU for vocational and non-vocational education at key stage 4
3. To amend the excluded pupil regulations in light of the new day 6 provision
4. To allow the Schools Forum to approve proposed scheme changes
5. To ensure a like for like comparison is made when calculating the minimum funding guarantee.

The response to the consultation made by Milton Keynes Council can be seen in annex 1.

The full consultation and draft revised regulations can be seen on the DfES website and are shown in annexes 2 & 3 to this report.

4. Financial Benchmarking website – Identifying schools by name Consultation

The consultation was issued by the DfES on the 5th December 2006. Responses are to be sent to the DfES by 27th February 2007. The DfES needs to ensure that schools continue to have access to a fast efficient and

easy to use benchmarking tool. By displaying school names on the website they believe that schools will be able to benchmark much more effectively which should result in more efficient schools.

The full consultation can be seen on the DfES website and is shown in annex 4 to this report.