

SCHOOL FINANCE (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2006 – AMENDMENT REGULATIONS.

Response to Consultation on behalf of Milton Keynes Council

a. a new provision related to delegated budgets for new schools;

Milton Keynes has been opening new schools on a regular basis since its conception as an education authority. The authority is therefore supportive of the proposals made by DfES, as these are broadly similar to the arrangements that have already been in place in the Milton Keynes funding formula.

Milton Keynes would welcome the proposals even more warmly if DfES were to recognise in financial terms the funding consequences of such arrangements. Currently there is no recognition of this in the funding of local authorities.

b. a minor amendment to the wording of regulation 14(4)(h) – differentiated AWPU for pupils following vocational education in key stage 4;

Milton Keynes is supportive of the proposal to permit differentiation in funding to recognise the costs of different curriculum delivery models. Again one wonders how this is reflected in national funding terms.

c. a change to the excluded pupils regulation (regulation 23) in the light of the introduction of ‘day 6’ provision;

This proposal seems sensible in the light of the wider policy changes.

d. the addition of provision to allow a schools forum to approve proposed scheme changes;

Whilst the general thrust of this proposal is welcomed there is some concern that the Forum’s new found ability to amend proposals from the authority could lead to difficulties if used beyond the spirit in which it is intended.

e. two minor amendments to schedule 5 to the 2006 regulations (Minimum Funding Guarantee).

Milton Keynes has no difficulty with these minor changes.