**SCHOOLS FORUM**

**18th May 2022**

**Agenda 6: School Forum Policy Review**

1. **Background**
   1. Each year, as part of the funding formula, The Schools’ Forum set and approves the local authority centrally retained growth fund budget and are required to approve the key funding policies designed to support the funding formula for the next financial year.
2. **The Medway Scheme for Financing Schools.**
   1. The Medway Scheme for Financing Schools policy is a statutory requirement and needs to be approved every year. Changes to the policy can only be approved with the Schools Forum approval after consultation with Medway maintained schools.
   2. There are no planed changes to the scheme and the Schools Forum is asked to ratify the scheme for the next financial year as per appendix 1. Only maintained school members are eligible to vote.
3. **The Growth Fund Policy.**
   1. The growth fund policy was first introduced in 2012 and was last reviewed in 2021 and must be reviewed and approved each year.
   2. Medway’s policy effectively offers schools three protections for each new class opened, it:
4. Guarantees pupil numbers.
5. Offers a yearly lump sum of £6,000 for each year a new class is opened if the new class is funded through the funding formula.
6. Offers a yearly lump sum of £61,000 (£55,000 plus point 2 above) for each year a new class is opened if the new class is not funded through the funding formula.

3.3 **The Schools Forum is asked to approve the Schools Growth Fund Policy as per appendix 2.** Changes are highlighted in yellow and all mainstream members are eligible to vote.

3.4 The changes are cosmetic and therefore haven’t been discussed with Schools or academies.

1. **The Schools In Financial Difficulty due to Pan Class Sizes Policy.**
   1. The Schools in Financial Difficulty policy was first introduced in 2018 after a year of discussion and amendments to the policy by members. The policy was reviewed and updated in May 2021 and must be reviewed every year.
   2. The policy offers temporary protection (up to three years) to those schools who are required to open more than one class but with low pupils numbers and are unable to increase the remaining class sizes because of the maximum class size of 30 required by law in key stage 1.
   3. Please see appendix 3 for the revised policy. **The Schools Forum is asked to approve the Policy as per appendix 3**
2. **The Schools Forum**
   1. The Schools forum is asked to **COMMENT, NOTE,** and **VOTE** on
      1. **Schools Forum is asked to ratify the scheme for the next financial year as per appendix 1 and section 2.2 above.**
      2. **The Schools Forum is asked to approve the Schools Growth Fund Policy as per appendix 2 above.**
      3. **The Schools Forum is asked to approve the SIFD Policy as per appendix 3 above.**

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