**SCHOOLS FORUM – 25TH JUNE 2014**

**SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS & SCHOOLS FINANCE PROCEDURE RULES**

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to advise maintained schools representatives of School Forum of the above documents which are due to be re-issued prior to the summer holidays.

1. **Background**

Given the recent changes in respect of Schools Funding over the last 2 years it is timely to review the above two documents to ensure they remain compliant with legislation and guidance and fit for purpose. The above two documents applies to all maintained schools and are required to be submitted to forum for there approval.

Over the last few years schools have converted to academy on a regular basis and as such there are a reduced number where the requirement to follow these applies.

Prior to formal adoption by the maintained representatives of the Schools Forum comments need to be invited from all maintained schools. The documents will be issued prior to the end of summer term with a deadline for comments of the 30th September 2014. Any comments received will be investigated and changes made as appropriate.

A further report will be presented to Schools Forum probably at the end of the year to advise of the results from the consultation and to seek formal approval.

1. **Overview of the Main Changes**

**Scheme for Financing Schools**

This document has still to be finalised however the bulk of the changes are procedural to reflect changes in the national education funding landscape. Prior to approval a summary of changes will be provided to Forum as per Recommendation 2 below.

**Schools Financial Procedure Rules**

Changes have been made to reflect current procedures such as changes to financial system processes. Maintained schools are already complying with these so no adverse comment is anticipated.

1. **Recommendation**

It is recommended:

1. That members note the contents of this report, and
2. Following the receipt of comments a report is brought back for these to be formally approved by the maintained Schools Forum representatives.

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