

# CUMBRIAN SCHOOL FUNDING BULLETIN

## ISSUE 3

January 26<sup>th</sup> 2007

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Published by Children's Services Finance

Main website: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/finance/>

Schools Forum website:  
<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/finance/forum.asp>

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is simply to ensure that all schools are aware of recent developments in funding and finance issues.

This is being sent via the portal. However a number of you have asked if we could send it directly to a specific e-mail address (such as school finance staff or governors). We are happy to do that – please send the relevant addresses to [education.finance@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:education.finance@cumbriacc.gov.uk)

We will also be putting these bulletins on our website at:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/finance/latestnews.asp>

**Anton Hodge**  
**Senior Finance Manager – Children’s Services**

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## **NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEM – E5**

Cumbria County Council, in partnership with their ICT Strategic Partner Agilisys, have commissioned a project to replace the current Financial Information Management System (FIMS). The objective for this project (subsequently called e5) is to *“deliver a modern fully integrated financial system, which enables Cumbria County Council to proactively manage its business”*.

As the e5 project progresses throughout 2007 there will be a number of communications events specifically for schools. These will allow you to understand the system and its advantages in more detail. It will also allow you to appreciate the changes that you can expect to see following the go live date at the end of November 2007 and thereafter.

Schools currently using FIMS will therefore see a change in their accounting system from the 1st December, principally with regard to the coding structure and the monthly reports which are sent to you by CAPITA. We intend to consult on how the system will be made fully available to schools in due course. Full implementation for schools will therefore happen after the end of the 2007-08 financial year and this will include on-line access by schools to the new system.

The new system will bring a range of benefits including the following;

### **Stage 1: New System Benefits**

- Revised cost structure will offer the opportunity to track special projects and also outside funding – e.g. the various components of Standards Fund.

- New cost centre codes will include DfES standard reference number, as well as further digit to distinguish separate departments within school.
- Reports produced by Capita can be e-mailed directly to schools.
- Potential to record non-financial metrics alongside costs to produce costs per pupil etc.
- Will speed up / automate production of CFR reports and available at LA and school level.

## **Stage 2: Benefits from On-line Access**

- Ability to access real time financial data on line.
- E-procurement, allowing commitment accounting, showing amount of uncommitted funds available for further spend.
- Funds checking against available budget when order placed to improve budgetary control.
- Ability to drill down to transaction detail, including electronic image of invoice.
- Ability to request reports to be produced on demand, selecting from a range of standard reports.
- Income recorded instantly within accounts.

Once we have details of the communications events we will let you know, but in the mean time if you do have any questions or concerns please contact Anton Hodge. All feedback will then be collated and fed back to the e5 project team.

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## **SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2007**

The Forum met earlier this week and a full summary of decisions and recommendations will be sent to schools in the next week. However, you might perhaps be interested to learn of the outcome of the discussion of Teachers Pay Grants. The Forum recommended that allocation of this funding be as per 2006-07, i.e. based on relevant teacher numbers. The previous decision to allocate 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of these funds through AWPU will therefore be reversed.

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## **NEXT BULLETIN (9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY)**