

**CUMBERLAND COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Report Title:** Revised LA Scheme for Financing Schools

**Meeting date:** 13 June 2023

**Report of:** Dan Barton, Assistant Director, SEND, Education & Inclusion

**1.0 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs the Schools Forum of an amendment to the Cumberland LA Scheme for Financing Schools and Pupil Referral Units (Scheme) relating to the retention of funds from the sale of land assets.
- 1.2 The revised Scheme will come into effect from June 2023.

**2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities**

- 2.1 Improving the financial processes for schools is supportive of the Council Plan “to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents” and the priority to “address inequalities and enable its residents to access opportunities that will empower them to achieve their goals.”

**3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Schools Forum is recommended to note the amendment to the Scheme which applies to all maintained schools and pupil referral units.

**4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation**

- 4.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA 1998) requires that local authorities maintain a Scheme setting out the financial relationship between them and the schools that it maintains.
- 4.2 The DfE updated their guidance for local authorities on Schemes on 31 March 2023, available [here](#). As a consequence an amendment (highlighted in yellow in the below table) has been made to the Scheme as follows:

Section	Current	Revised
5.4 Sales of Assets (page 28 of the Scheme)	<p>Schools may retain the proceeds of sale of assets except in cases where the asset was purchased with non-delegated funds (in which case it should be for the authority to decide whether the school should retain the proceeds); or the asset concerned is land or buildings forming part of the school premises and is owned by the authority.</p> <p>Proceeds of sale of premises not owned by the authority is not a matter for this scheme.</p>	<p>Schools may retain the proceeds of sale of assets except in cases where the asset was purchased with non-delegated funds (in which case it should be for the authority to decide whether the school should retain the proceeds); or the asset concerned is land or buildings forming part of the school premises and is owned by the authority.</p> <p>Any retention of funds from the sale of land assets is subject to the consent of the Secretary of State, and any conditions the Secretary of State may attach to that consent relating to the use of proceeds.</p> <p>Proceeds of sale of premises not owned by the authority is not a matter for this scheme</p>

4.3 The Regulations relating to the disposal of land for maintained schools are in Section 77 of the SSFA 1998 and DfE guidance is available [here](#). The amendment confirms that Secretary of State consent is required.

4.4 As the amendment has been led by the DfE, consultation with maintained schools and approval of the Scheme by their Schools Forum representatives is not required.

4.5 The revised Scheme will be published on the School Portal shortly after this meeting.

## 5.0 Options

5.1 There are no options, the maintained schools' Schools Forum representative members are asked to note the amendment and the revised Scheme.

## 6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. No other implications have been identified.

7 June 2023

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### Appendices

1. Cumberland LA Scheme for Financing Schools June 2023

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Working for **Cumberland Council** and  
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