

	London Borough of Hillingdon Schools Forum 18th October 2023
Title	Consultation Revisions for Scheme for Financing Schools
Agenda Item	7a
Report by	Sailesh Patel -spatel5@hillington.gov.uk
Appendices	Appendix A - Revised LBH Scheme for Financing Schools
Recommendation(s)	That the members of Schools Forum representing maintained schools approve the recommended revision to the Scheme for Financing Schools in order that consultation with all maintained schools can proceed.

1. Introduction

Local Authorities are required to publish a scheme for financing schools which sets out the financial relationship between the Local Authority and the schools they maintain. In making changes to the scheme, local authorities must consult all schools and receive the approval of the members of schools forum representing maintained schools. Where the schools forum does not approve them or approves them subject to modifications which are not acceptable to the authority, the authority may apply to the Secretary of State for approval.

A copy of the Scheme for Financing Schools should be available at all schools. The document can also be downloaded from the London Borough of Hillingdon webpage.

The current Scheme for Financing Schools was last updated in September 2020 after presentation to Schools Forum.

2. Recommendation

That the members of Schools Forum representing maintained schools approve the recommended revision to the Scheme for Financing Schools in order that consultation with all maintained schools can proceed.

3. Proposed Amendments

The proposed revisions are highlighted in red within the draft document (Appendix A). The majority of these changes are relatively minor and are as a consequence of changes to the guidance from the DfE.

The Key changes are:

2.3.1-A proposed revision to require schools to submit a 3-year balanced budget forecast to the Council, to ensure any budgetary issues and support requirements are picked up as early as possible in the financial year.

4.5.1-Directed revision: Schools must submit a recovery plan to the local authority when their revenue deficit rises above 5% at 31 March of any year. This is aligned to ensure schools have a balanced 3-year budget linked to a recovery plan.

2.10-The proposed revisions:

The current values of contracts which require particular numbers of quotations and tenders is set out below has been updated to reflect the current LA requirements:

Total Value	Minimum number of quotations or tenders	Award Criteria	Approval
£3,001-£25,000	3 Quotations	Most economically advantageous	Headteacher
£25,000-£100,000	5 Quotations	Most economically advantageous	Governing Body
£100,000 and above	5 Tenders	Most economically advantageous	Governing Body and Local Authority
£138,760 and above	Find a Tender Service (FTS)**	UK tender (goods/services)	Governing Body and Local Authority

[Note: Since the UK's departure from the EU, OJEU has been replaced by a UK-only tendering service called 'Find a Tender Service' and works in the same format as OJEU.](#)

4. Appendix A: Revised LBH Scheme for Financing Schools

Background Papers

Department for Education: Statutory guidance for local authorities on Schemes for Financing Schools:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools>