

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 25th January 2017

Lead Member/Officer: Richard Weigh, Head of Finance
Karen Evans, Head of Education & Children's Services

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Title: School Finance Regulations Report (update)

1. What is the report about?

1.1 To provide an update regarding financial regulations in place across Denbighshire schools.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 As part of the Corporate Governance forward work programme, the Committee asked for a report to be presented showing the status of financial regulations in schools and the policies adopted.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Members consider the information provided herein and comment accordingly.

4. Report details

4.1 Background

4.1.1 Further to Corporate Governance meeting on June 15th 2016, a report was presented on proposed updates to the Authority's own Financial Regulations. As part of these discussions a question was raised regarding Financial Regulations in schools, and whether they defer to the Authority's own Financial Regulations.

4.1.2 Denbighshire schools have been surveyed and the results are shown in Appendix 1.

4.2 Findings

4.2.1 All Denbighshire Schools work within the Scheme for Financing Schools, shown in Appendix 2. Denbighshire's Scheme for Financing Schools sets out the financial relationship between the Authority and the maintained schools which it funds. The Scheme contains requirements relating to financial management and associated issues and is binding on both the Authority and on schools.

4.2.2 In addition to the Scheme for Financing Schools, some clusters have developed and adopted their own financial regulations – shown below but not appended to the report. Copies can be made available if requested:

Cluster	Document (s)
Rhyl Cluster	Financial Planning & Procedure Manual (July 2011) Schools Purchasing Policy. "Framework of responsibilities" (documents not provided)
Glan Clwyd Cluster	Financial Regulations Manual
Ruthin Cluster	Ysgol Bryhyfryd Financial Regulations
St. Brigid's	School Finance Manual
Blessed Edward Jones & Ysgol Mair	Governance of Financial Management.

4.2.3 For the Llangollen and Denbigh clusters, they adopt the Authority's own Financial Regulations. We have not received a response from Prestatyn schools at the time of drafting this report.

4.2.4 It is noted that each cluster has its own Finance Manager who coordinates and provides advice and guidance to their schools on all issues relating to Finance. The Authority also coordinates with these Finance Managers through regular network meetings.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1 Financial regulations contribute to having effective governance arrangements in schools.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 There are no cost implications associated with this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment (WBIA) undertaken on the decision?

7.1 This report is merely for information, following up a question raised at a previous Corporate Governance Committee and as such does not require an impact assessment.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1 Schools have been consulted and have provided the responses forming the body of the report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The responses received to date confirm that schools have adopted a set of regulations. It is for the school to determine the most appropriate regulations to adopt. The most important point is that a set of regulations has been adopted. Schools should ensure that their regulations are reviewed periodically and that staff and governors are aware of them.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 Not applicable to this information report.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.