



North Tyneside Council

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## Briefing note

**To:** Schools Forum                      **Author:** Jon Ritchie, Cofely Finance and HR  
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**Title of Briefing:** Directed revisions to the Scheme for Financing Schools

### Background

Local authorities are required to publish Schemes for Financing Schools setting out the financial relationship between them and maintained schools. Any amendments to schemes must be consulted on with all schools and be approved by the Schools Forum.

On 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015 the DfE published updated guidance on Schemes for Financing Schools which included two directed revisions:

- Requirement for maintained schools to publish a register of the business interests of their governors, along with any relationships with staff
- Clarification that borrowing includes the use of finance leases and is not allowable, with the exception of certain schemes approved by the Secretary of State. Currently only Salix loans have such approval

The above minor changes have been incorporated into the local authority's scheme. In addition some general housekeeping has been undertaken e.g. removal of standards fund from section on surplus balances. Appendix A shows the proposed scheme with changes highlighted.

The revised scheme, incorporating these adjustments once approved, will be available to all schools on the Council's internet within the next month.

### Recommendations for the Forum

The Forum are asked to note the revisions to the local authority's Scheme for Financing Schools and approve the revised scheme.