



**To:**  
**All Headteachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies**  
**Other Fair Funding Consultees**

Our Ref: WSF/SIFD/March 07

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007

Dear Colleague,

**CONSIDERATION OF A SCHEME TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY**

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Worcestershire Schools Forum (WSF) to request your comments on a proposal for a scheme to support schools in financial difficulty.

This issue has been considered by the WSF in the Autumn Term 2006 who resolved to challenge their previous policy on not introducing such a scheme. This was on the basis of the position in a small number of schools whose current progress was potentially being affected by their historic financial position.

This issue has therefore been considered further on the Forum's behalf by a nominated working sub-group of Forum members consisting of: -

Peter Garner - Headteacher, Walkwood Middle School  
David Braham - Headteacher, Bengeworth First School  
Sean Devlin - Headteacher, Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College  
Malcolm Richards - Worcestershire Association of Governors  
Andy McHale - Service Development Manager Resources  
Trish Mallinson - Children's Services Finance

At its Spring Term 2006 meeting the WSF considered the process of the sub-group and resolved, subject to some further amendments, to consult all schools on the issues discussed together with proposals for consideration.

The attached papers give further details: -

- A list of issues discussed by the WSF, the Forum sub-group and the LMS Review Group (Appendix A - blue);

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- A draft scheme for supporting Schools in Financial Difficulty  
(Appendix B - pink);
- A consultation pro-forma for completion (Appendix C - green).

In engaging schools in this consultation the WSF and the sub-group recognises the potential contentious nature of this issue. The attached papers set out the deliberations so far and the detailed safeguards, criteria and provisions deemed to be considered necessary prior to the potential introduction of a scheme.

The WSF are keen to hear from Headteachers, Governors and other consultees and are requesting you to complete the attached pro-forma with your views. Your responses will then be considered further at a WSF meeting in the Summer Term 2007, prior to any decisions being taken on the proposals.

If a decision were taken to proceed with such a scheme it would come into effect from the financial year 2008/09 from any available headroom from the centrally retained part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Thank you in anticipation of your comments and if you have any further queries on these issues then please do not hesitate to contact any of the sub group members listed previously.

Yours sincerely

Andy McHale  
Service Development Manager Resources and  
Clerk to the Worcestershire Schools Forum

On behalf of all members of the Worcestershire Schools Forum

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