

**Schools Forum 20 March 2007**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Consistent Financial Reporting 2005/06**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To report to Schools Forum the benchmarking data available from the Audit Commissions Consistent Financial Reporting website in relation to Dudley schools financial transactions during 2005/06.

**Budget Working Group Discussed**

2. No

**Schools Forum Action**

3. To note distribution of benchmarking data for 2005/06 to Heads and Chairs.

**Attachments**

4. 3 booklets – Special/Secondary & Primary schools

Karen Cocker

Children's Service Finance Manager

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**Consistent Financial Reporting 2005/06**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To report to Schools Forum the benchmarking data available from the Audit Commissions Consistent Financial Reporting website in relation to Dudley schools financial transactions during 2005/06.

**Background**

2. The Audit Commission website now holds data in relation to schools use of funds for the financial years 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06. The website will be populated with 2006/07 outturn during the Autumn of 2007.
3. Data from this website has been extracted previously by LA officers and circulated to Dudley schools; schools can use this data for budget setting and other benchmarking exercises. Schools are encouraged to make use of the direct access to the website which is now available to them.
4. Whether schools access the site directly or they use the data circulated by the LA, this currently only identifies a particular school against a similar category of schools within Dudley; where the other schools are anonymous. The LA has access to the full database and can therefore identify all schools within a pre-defined range.
5. It was agreed at Schools Forum and HTCF – Budget Working Group last year that in future the circulation of CFR data to schools should identify all schools by name.
6. The confidential data for 2005/06 is attached at Appendix A for Schools Forum to note.
7. Copies will be circulated to the Headteacher and the Chair of Finance. Any wider circulation will be restricted to colleagues within the LA and issued on a confidential basis.

## **Finance**

8. The funding of schools is prescribed by the DfES through the School Finance (England) Regulations 2006.
9. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the Schools Budget is funded by a direct DfES grant: Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

## **Law**

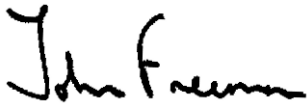
10. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

## **Equality Impact**

11. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

## **Recommendation**

12. Schools Forum are asked to note the CFR data in respect of 2005/06.



**John Freeman**

**Director of Children's Services**

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