



Community Services: Education

Argyll House
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To: Heads of all Educational Establishments

Dear Colleague

Financial regulations

The link below is a copy of the financial regulations of Argyll and Bute Council which should be followed by all schools:

https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/part_d_financial_regs_combined.pdf

Scheme of Devolved School Management

Education is a fundamental core service that is delivered locally under the strategic democratic leadership and accountability of councils. Nearly half of Scottish Council budgets are currently spent on school education, with a significant proportion of this expenditure funding the salary costs of teaching and support staff. To enhance and improve the management of resources at local (school) level, Devolved School Management (DSM) was introduced in 1993. This required councils to devolve 80-90% of school budgets to Head teachers with the twin aims of improving local decision making and providing greater flexibility to Head teachers in responding to the needs of individual schools.

The 2006 DSM Guidelines issued by the Scottish Executive recommended that local authorities increase the level of devolved budgets to 90%. This advice reflected the principle that everything that could be devolved should be devolved, except for certain areas of expenditure that were not considered suitable for devolution. Since the issue of the DSM Guidelines there have been significant changes in the policy landscape in Scotland that impact on DSM. Moreover, there has been a considerable change in the economic and financial climate for local government and the wider public sector in Scotland.

In 2011 Michael Russell, then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning from the Scottish Government and Cllr Isabel Hutton, COSLA Spokesperson for Education, Children and Young People agreed that the 2006 DSM Guidelines should be reviewed and amended to take account of a much changed environment, described in the following ‘context’ paragraphs, albeit with existing local democratic accountability and oversight of education services being maintained.

The link below is a copy of the full Scheme of Devolved School Management (DSM) which should be followed by all schools: <https://sharepoint.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education/education/Share/Guidance%20Documents/DRAFT%20SCHEME%20OF%20DELEGATION%20-%202016%20Final%20271016.doc>

Yours sincerely

Executive Director of Community Services
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