Executive Summary

Purpose

This document is an update to the *School Sixth Forms – Funding Guidance for 2006/07 and 2007/08* (referred to here as ‘the Guidance’), published by the LSC in September 2006, and should be read in conjunction with the Guidance.

The purpose of this document is to:
- provide clarification on pupil and programme eligibility
- clarify some other points of guidance where necessary
- highlight certain data collection requirements for sixth forms in 2007/08; and
- provide early notification of rate changes for 2008/09.

Intended Recipients

This document is intended to be for the information of:
- Headteachers and school colleagues responsible for sixth forms in schools
- Directors of Children’s Services and their colleagues involved in 14-19 education; and
- Diocesan Directors of Education.
Points of Clarification

Pupil eligibility

1 Paragraph 105 of the Guidance briefly sets out the pupil eligibility criteria for sixth form pupils. Both sixth forms and auditors have sought clarification on the meaning of full-time which is defined to be a minimum of 450 guided learning hours (glh) per year.

2 The LSC Learner Eligibility Guidance for 2007/08 is available on the LSC website (http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/LSC_learner_Eligibility_Guidance_2007-08-Final.pdf). This document sets out the authoritative guidance for learner eligibility across the LSC funding streams for 2007/08.

3 Paragraph 108 of the Guidance should read as follows:

108 To qualify for LSC funding the majority of a pupil’s programme must be in the sixth form. For a pupil under the age of 16 (on 31 August) the majority of the pupil’s programme must be made up of level 3 or above qualifications, this is defined as being a minimum of 2 AS-levels or their equivalent per year.

4 Pupils that do qualify for LSC funding under paragraph 108 should be recorded in the School Census as being in National Curriculum Year Group 12, 13 or 14. If the majority of a pupil’s programme is at Key Stage 4, the pupil is not eligible for LSC funding and should be recorded in the School Census as being in National Curriculum Year Group 10 or 11.

Funding rates for the Advanced Levels in Applied Subjects

5 Table g: The 2006/07 and 2007/08 national base rates for main qualifications does not include the funding rate for the Advanced Levels (AS/A2) in Applied Subjects. These qualifications will be funded at the rate equivalent to its predecessor, the AVCE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applied AS/A2 Levels:</th>
<th>2006/07 £</th>
<th>2007/08 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three units</td>
<td>1,322</td>
<td>1,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six units</td>
<td>2,651</td>
<td>2,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twelve units</td>
<td>5,125</td>
<td>5,315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foundation and Intermediate GNVQs

6 Paragraph 131 of the Guidance states that: Foundation and Intermediate GNVQs have been withdrawn in 2005/06, with only resits allowed in January 2007. In fact, a number of Foundation and Intermediate GNVQs have an approval end date of 30 November 2006, meaning that they were eligible for funding for new starters up to this date. Schools are reminded that the Edexcel and OCR qualifications that are replacing the Foundation and Intermediate GNVQs are the preferred qualifications.

Programme eligibility

7 The LSC can only fund qualifications in school sixth form that are listed under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 (www.dfes.gov.uk/section96).
In 2007/08 the one exception to this rule is that under certain circumstances the LSC will fund higher-level qualifications. Further information is available in paragraphs 156 to 161 of the Guidance.

8 If a qualification is listed on Section 96 then it is not necessarily eligible for funding. Annex D of the Guidance includes a list of those qualifications that are not eligible for funding in 2007/08. The following qualifications are eligible for funding:

- Main qualifications, such as A-levels and GCSEs. The full list along with the funding rates is available on page 16 of the Guidance.
- Other vocationally related qualifications. Annex C of the Guidance includes a list of those most commonly delivered by sixth forms.
- Qualifications at Levels 1, 2 or 3 that clearly add “additionality” to a pupil’s entitlement.
- Qualifications that act as a framework for SEN pupils on the basis that the pupils involved are only taking that framework.

**Level 1 and Level 2 programmes**

9 As a point of clarification to paragraph 151, the LSC does fund learners aged 16 or over that are studying programmes at Level 1 or Level 2 within the sixth form where the curriculum pathways are significant in engaging and motivating young people to remain in learning and achieve a full Level 2 and/or a full Level 3 by the age of 19. Sixth forms wishing to introduce such qualifications should consider how their introduction fits with the locally agreed 14-19 plan.

**Functional skills**

10 Functional skills qualifications are to be piloted in 2007/08. The funding for functional skills is included within the agreed 2007/08 allocations as part of the per pupil entitlement funding. There will be no additional funding because it is expected that functional skills will displace existing provision. Further information on functional skills is available on the QCA website (http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_6066.aspx).

**Religious Education**

11 Paragraph 172 of the Guidance states that the eligibility for funding of those religious education courses which are not approved under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000, such as those programmes approved by the National Accrediting Board of Studies (NABS), is being reviewed for 2007/08. The LSC has decided that it will not fund NABS courses delivered from 2007/08 onwards. Funding will continue to be available for the delivery of qualifications that are listed under Section 96 and institutions delivering a NABS course in 2006/07 are encouraged to transfer to an approved alternative for 2007/08.

12 The 2007/08 allocation has been calculated on the basis of the qualifications recorded in the 2006 September Pupil Count, thus a school sixth form delivering a NABS course in 2006/07 will receive a funding allocation in 2007/08 based on a curriculum which includes NABS. However the school
must transfer to a qualification on Section 96 in 2007/08 in order to be eligible for an allocation in 2008/09.


**Area costs**

14 Annex A of the Guidance sets out the area cost uplifts. The uplifts included in the annex are stated in the incorrect format: for example, the London A uplift is given as 1.2 per cent, whereas the actual uplift is 1.2, that is 20 per cent.

**Funding rates for other vocationally related qualifications**

15 The two paragraphs preceding the table in Annex C of the Guidance are to be replaced with the following text:

The table below sets out the programme weighting and funding rate for those “other qualifications” most commonly taught by schools. The funding rate for each qualification is given for both 2006/07 and 2007/08 and is based on the QCA guided learning hours (glh), also known as teacher contact time, for each qualification.

**Contacting the LSC**

16 The telephone number on the inside front cover of the Guidance (024 7682 3914) is incorrect. In all cases, school sixth forms should contact their LSC partnership team. The telephone numbers are listed on the LSC website (http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/).

**Data collection for 2007/08**

17 Section 7 of the Guidance sets out the data collection requirements for school sixth forms for 2006/07 and 2007/08.

**School Census**

18 From 2007/08 onwards, post-16 learning aims data collection will occur twice a year as part of the normal School Census. The census dates in 2007/08 are 4 October 2007 and 15 May 2008. Further guidance is available on the teachernet website (www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datacollections).

**Early notification of rate changes for 2008/09**

19 The LSC wants to ensure stability and avoid destabilisation of providers wherever possible. Hence where there are significant changes to funding rates the LSC aims to give providers as much notice as possible so that appropriate steps can be taken to ensure financial stability.

20 Two such significant rate changes have been considered by the LSC in its annual review of funding rates. Both of these changes were originally set out

a AS- and A2-level General Studies: General Studies is currently funded at half the rate of other AS/A2-level qualifications. Analysis has shown that delivery of General Studies is on average significantly below the level of funding afforded to it. The funding rate for AS/A2-level General Studies will therefore be reduced to the equivalent of 30–39 glh in 2008/09, subject to the LSC’s 2008 review of funding rates. AS- and A2-level Critical Thinking has also been considered, and will be revisited as part of the LSC’s 2008 review of funding rates. AS-level Critical Thinking is currently delivered in approximately half the glh of other AS/A2-level qualifications.

b Level 3 GNVQ successors, specifically Edexcel National Diplomas, National Certificates and National Awards and OCR Extended National Diplomas, National Diplomas and National Certificates: The delivery of these qualifications is consistent with the awarding bodies’ recommended glh rather than the current funding rates which are significantly higher for historical reasons. Owing to the significance of these qualifications, the LSC will not implement any changes in 2007/08, but will conduct further research on the costs of delivering these qualifications with a view to revising the rates in line with the awarding body recommended glh in 2008/09.

21 On 30 November 2006, the Prime Minister and Secretary of State announced that schools and colleges will offer more choices to young people over what they study post-16 by providing greater access to the International Baccalaureate (IB) for those who wish to study it. Funding was committed to ensure that there is at least one institution offering the IB in every local authority where there is currently no provision. This will mean that up to 100 additional institutions will offer the IB by 2010. The LSC already funds the IB in colleges and schools and will continue to do so in 2007/08. The current rate for the IB is set at the equivalent of 4.5 A-levels and will remain at this level for 2007/08. In addition, the funding of the IB will be reviewed in 2007 in order to inform the 2008/09 rate.

22 Paragraph 111 states that the per pupil entitlement funding covers key skills, tutorials and other enrichment activities. In 2008/09, key skills qualifications will be funded separately. To account for this change, the funding for the per pupil entitlement will be reduced.

23 Paragraphs 119 and 120 include definitions for both retakes and resits. In 2006/07 and 2007/08 retakes are funded at the full funding rate whilst resits are not eligible for funding, with the exception of GCSE resits which are funded at a third of the full funding rate. The LSC is giving consideration to the level at which retakes and resits are to be funded in 2008/09.

Changes to the funding methodology for 2008/09

24 The consultation document, Delivering World Class Skills in a Demand-Led System, was published in January 2007 and the LSC is grateful to those sixth forms that responded. The LSC will publish the final details of the funding methodology for 2008/09 in the autumn.