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Dear Colleague

I am writing to inform you that from 1 April 2018, the County Council will be introducing a charge of £5,500 for schools which choose to convert to academy status. This will apply to those schools who have not been issued with an academy order as of 1 March 2018. The academy conversion process incurs significant costs for the Local Authority in terms of Legal and Property, HR, Finance, and Project Management. Although the Department for Education has provided a small grant to facilitate the conversion process, as the County Council has not received the full amount requested we face the need to set a modest charge. Schools choosing to convert to academy status receive a grant of £25,000 from the DfE to assist with the conversion costs and many other Local Authorities now make a similar charge.

Please note that this charge will be for the costs incurred by the Local Authority during the statutory conversion process. North Yorkshire Education Services are currently investigating the possibility of offering a traded service to assist with the conversion process and further details about this will be provided when available.

The time and cost associated with the conversion of the schools subject to a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract can be substantially higher due to the contractual complexities involved which the Local Authority would seek to recover. An additional charge would therefore be required for PFI schools on the basis of an assessment of the extra work involved. These would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Yours sincerely



Paul Brennan
Assistant Director – Education & Skills