

Agenda Item 9 - School Balances Survey

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Every year we ask schools to complete two balances surveys. One following outturn as at 31 March and an update in December.
- 1.2 Concerns have been expressed regarding the ongoing high level of school balances. Schools Forum agreed that a robust challenge would be made to ensure that schools are spending their balances effectively. In addition, a Task & Finish Group was set up to look at monitoring mechanisms for school balances. This Group met and agreed in principle to 'deficit/surplus' clinics.

2 Survey Results as at 31 March 2017

- 2.1 All schools were invited to participate in the survey. All maintained schools responded to the survey. Of the eleven academies, one participated, six responded and didn't wish to take part and four did not respond. The results are included in the appendices showing balances as at 31st August 2016.

3 Projected Outturns

- 3.1 In the report to Schools' Forum on 8th March 2017 the Balances Survey (December) predicted maintained schools balances as at 31 March of £0.955m as shown in **Appendix 1** (column a). During the spring term monitoring, balances increased to £1.879m, as shown in column b compared to actual school balances (column c) of £2.145m, an increase of £0.267m (14.2%).
- 3.2 Column e shows the actual school balances as a percentage of the 2017/18 ISB.
- 3.3 Using the "Excessive School Balances" protocol on balances (regardless of commitments) above 8% (primary) and 5% (secondary), 11 of the 24 primary schools exceed 8% and 1 secondary school exceeds 5% of their current ISB. No other provision exceeds the recommended balances.

4 Planned Use of Balances

- 4.1 Schools were given the opportunity to commit their school balances against the following permitted categories:
- Employees
 - Premises
 - ICT
 - Supplies & Services

- Transport
- Use of balances in 2017/18 and beyond.

4.2 Maintained schools have planned to use £1.173m of balances to support the 2017/18 budget, shown in column f. This reduces the school balances to £0.972m. After these commitments three schools still exceed the 8% threshold (column i).

4.3 In addition, a further £0.142m (column g) has been identified to support the 2018/19 budgets, which leaves gross uncommitted balances of £0.831m.

4.4 **Appendix 2** Table 1, summarises by sector the breakdown from the survey of the school balances against the permitted categories.

4.5 In addition to the main balances, a further £0.184m was carried forward in respect of "Other funds". Table 2 summarises by sector the breakdown of Balances at 31st March 2017.

4.6 Of the four schools that have balances in respect of community facilities (COMFAC), two are in deficit. One school did not return the balances survey in respect of the COMFAC.

5 Recommendations

- To note the contents of the report and ask Forum members to discuss the proposed Excessive School Balances protocol.

| School | School's projected outturn as per Balances Survey (December 16) | Outturn 2016/17 | | | Actual Balance 31.3.17 as % of 2017/18 ISB | Planned Use of Balances | | | Projected Balance 31.3.18 as % of 2017/18 ISB |
|--------|---|---|--|-----------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | School's Spring term projected outturn at 31st March 2017 | School's actual outturn at 31st March 2017 | Variance over/(under) | | Planned use of balances to support 2017/18 Budget | Planned Use to support 2018/19 budget | Total Uncommitted balances 31/03/19 | |
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) |
| 1 | 53,638 | 14,138 | 23,558 | (9,420) | 1.3% | 23,558 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 2 | 13,913 | 35,840 | 57,075 | (21,235) | 8.4% | 37,034 | 0 | 20,041 | 3.0% |
| 3 | 67,932 | 82,949 | 91,092 | (8,143) | 18.2% | 50,854 | 0 | 40,238 | 8.1% |
| 4 | 42,247 | 81,557 | 82,283 | (726) | 6.7% | 6,214 | 0 | 76,069 | 6.2% |
| 5 | 10,230 | 65,560 | 110,471 | (44,911) | 15.0% | 75,000 | 0 | 35,471 | 4.8% |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 7 | 119,355 | 194,922 | 199,472 | (4,550) | 14.4% | 55,000 | 0 | 144,472 | 10.4% |
| 8 | 22,565 | 52,331 | 57,168 | (4,837) | 6.5% | 57,168 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 10 | 25,318 | 41,075 | 55,037 | (13,962) | 11.9% | 0 | 40,000 | 15,037 | 11.9% |
| 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 12 | 64,995 | 108,438 | 107,944 | 494 | 7.3% | 66,483 | 0 | 41,461 | 2.8% |
| 13 | 32,042 | 16,302 | 16,297 | 5 | 1.1% | 14,015 | 0 | 2,282 | 0.1% |
| 14 | 25,374 | 34,247 | 36,853 | (2,606) | 2.6% | 0 | 0 | 36,853 | 2.6% |
| 15 | 16,377 | 17,418 | 25,512 | (8,094) | 3.4% | 0 | 0 | 25,512 | 3.4% |
| 16 | 80,665 | 126,853 | 151,950 | (25,097) | 6.7% | 99,875 | 52,075 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 17 | 74,583 | 145,700 | 145,948 | (248) | 11.9% | 69,688 | 0 | 76,260 | 6.2% |
| 18 | 78,363 | 248,927 | 274,774 | (25,847) | 18.4% | 240,655 | 0 | 34,119 | 2.3% |
| 19 | 55,041 | 106,902 | 21,210 | 85,692 | 0.4% | 0 | 0 | 21,210 | 0.4% |
| 20 | 7,249 | 67,016 | 85,009 | (17,993) | 13.3% | 45,595 | 0 | 39,414 | 6.2% |
| 21 | 4,739 | 25,174 | 30,492 | (5,318) | 6.7% | 2,129 | 20,000 | 8,363 | 6.2% |
| 22 | 5,716 | 42,045 | 38,567 | 3,478 | 4.6% | 0 | 0 | 38,567 | 4.6% |
| 23 | 0 | 82,521 | 82,895 | (374) | 8.6% | 82,895 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 24 | 13,741 | 94,477 | 183,394 | (88,917) | 11.1% | 137,037 | 30,000 | 16,357 | 2.8% |

| School | School's projected outturn as per Balances Survey (December 16) | Outturn 2016/17 | | | Actual Balance 31.3.17 as % of 2017/18 ISB | Planned Use of Balances | | | Projected Balance 31.3.18 as % of 2017/18 ISB |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | School's Spring term projected outturn at 31st March 2017 | School's actual outturn at 31st March 2017 | Variance over/(under) | | Planned use of balances to support 2017/18 Budget | Planned Use to support 2018/19 budget | Total Uncommitted balances 31/03/19 | |
| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | (i) |
| 25 | 75,542 | 92,784 | 137,749 | (44,965) | 9.9% | 50,000 | 0 | 87,749 | 6.3% |
| 26 | 65,566 | 57,169 | 71,358 | (14,189) | 5.8% | 0 | 0 | 71,358 | 5.8% |
| 27 | 0 | 44,226 | 59,347 | (15,121) | 3.8% | 59,347 | 0 | (0) | 0.0% |
| Total All Sectors | £955,191 | £1,878,571 | £2,145,458 | (£266,887) | 7.1% | £1,172,547 | £142,075 | £830,836 | 3.2% |
| Academy | | | 31st August 2016 | | | | | | |
| 1 | N/A | N/A | 591,558 | 591,558 | 7.9% | 0 | 0 | 591,558 | 7.9% |
| Total Academy | N/A | N/A | 591,558 | 591,558 | 7.9% | 0 | 0 | 591,558 | 7.9% |

| Sector | Table 1: Planned Use of Balances for 2017/18 | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Employees | Premises | ICT | Supplies | Transport | Total |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Primary | 367 | 522 | 84 | 100 | - | 1,073 |
| Secondary | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Special | - | 97 | - | 3 | - | 100 |
| Maintained Total | 367 | 619 | 84 | 103 | - | 1,173 |
| Academy | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Academy Total | - | - | - | - | - | - |

| Sector | Table 2: Other School Balances at 31st March 2017 | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| | PE & Sports | COMFAC | Out of School Clubs & Other Funds | Total Other Balances |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Primary | 77 | (123) | 206 | 160 |
| Secondary | - | (4) | 28 | 24 |
| Special | - | - | - | - |
| Maintained Total | 77 | (127) | 234 | 184 |
| Academy | - | - | - | - |
| Academy Total | - | - | - | - |

