**Report to Hartlepool Schools’ Forum 24 September 2020**

**From Amanda Whitehead – Assistant Director Education**

# Agenda Item 16 – Review of Final 2019/20 School Balances

1. **Introduction**
	1. In accordance with the ‘Scheme for Financing Schools’, and as agreed by Schools’ Forum, schools are required to complete two balances surveys each year: one following outturn as at the end of March, along with an update in December.
	2. The balances survey is a key control to ensure that schools do not carry an excess level of balances and that schools are spending their balances effectively.
	3. Following the survey, a Forum members’ triad panel is set up to monitor those schools that trigger the excess balance percentage (8% for primary schools and 5% for secondary schools).
2. **Background**
	1. The usual survey issued in April each year was not issued to schools in 2020 owing to the situation with COVID-19, as it was not deemed a priority for schools to complete.
	2. In place of the usual survey, the actual school balances remaining at 31March 2020 have been compared to the forecast uncommitted school balances expected to be remaining as reported to Schools’ Forum report on 5 February 2020. The balances used to support the 2020/21 school budget have been taken into account.
	3. Academies have been excluded from the review.
3. **Survey Results**
	1. The details by school are shown in **APPENDIX 1.**
	2. Column (a) showsthe total forecast uncommitted balances of £1,036,210 as at 31 March 2020 reported in the Schools’ Forum report dated 5 February 2020. Please note that this excludes school academisations during 2019/20. Schools with a deficit balance are also excluded from the listing.
	3. The actual school balances remaining (column b) at the year-end was £1,938,374, of which £542,249 has been used by schools to support their 2020/21 budget.
	4. As shown in column (i), 6 of the 17 maintained primary schools had balances remaining which exceeded 8% of their 2019/20 Individual School Budget (ISB).

**4 Recommendations**

4.1 It is recommended that Forum:

1. note the contents of the report
2. ask the Chair to convene the Excess Balances Panel for the 6 primary schools beyond the agreed threshold.

**APPENDIX 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School** | **Forecast Uncommitted Balances @ 31/3/20 per Schools Forum Report 5th February 2020** | **Actual Balances @ 31/3/20** | **Approved Budget Share 2019/20** | **Actual Balance 31.3.20 as % of 2019/20 ISB** | **Above the generally accepted levels**  | **Balances @ 31/3/20 used to support 2020/21 Budget** | **Balances remaining after setting 2020/21 Budgets** | **Balance remaining after setting 2020/21 Budgets as % of 2019/20 ISB** | **Above the generally accepted levels**  |
|  | **(a)** | **(b)** | **(c)** | **(d)** | **(e)** | **(f)** | **(g)=(b)-(f)** | **(h)** | **(i)** |
|  | **£** | **£** | **£** |  |  | **£** | **£** |  |  |
| 1 | 218,173 | 255,664 | 1,365,696 | 18.7% | Yes | 98,998 | 156,666 | 11.5% | Yes |
| 2 | 83,730 | 179,671 | 1,498,952 | 12.0% | Yes | 0 | 179,671 | 12.0% | Yes |
| 3 | 28,803 | 29,823 | 659,911 | 4.5% |   | 0 | 29,823 | 4.5% |   |
| 4 | 31,996 | 117,453 | 1,529,265 | 7.7% |   | 42,862 | 74,591 | 4.9% |   |
| 5 | 40,419 | 84,432 | 454,542 | 18.6% | Yes | 11,787 | 72,645 | 16.0% | Yes |
| 6 | 24,047 | 80,064 | 1,695,337 | 4.7% |   | 0 | 80,064 | 4.7% |   |
| 7 | 126,446 | 105,693 | 1,451,237 | 7.3% |   | 30,543 | 75,150 | 5.2% |   |
| 8 | (0) | 54,936 | 1,017,895 | 5.4% |   | 10,401 | 44,535 | 4.4% |   |
| 9 | 33,546 | 34,053 | 752,853 | 4.5% |   | 15,493 | 18,560 | 2.5% |   |
| 10 | 29,745 | 68,856 | 1,032,167 | 6.7% |   | 31,792 | 37,064 | 3.6% |   |
| 11 | 96,405 | 287,898 | 1,214,220 | 23.7% | Yes | 149,768 | 138,130 | 11.4% | Yes |
| 12 | 36,977 | 17,620 | 859,195 | 2.1% |   | 17,620 | 0 | 0.0% |   |
| **School** | **Forecast Uncommitted Balances @ 31/3/20 per Schools Forum Report 5th February 2020** | **Actual Balances @ 31/3/20** | **Approved Budget Share 2019/20** | **Actual Balance 31.3.20 as % of 2019/20 ISB** | **Above the generally accepted levels**  | **Balances @ 31/3/20 used to support 2020/21 Budget** | **Balances remaining after setting 2020/21 Budgets** | **Balance remaining after setting 2020/21 Budgets as % of 2019/20 ISB** | **Above the generally accepted levels**  |
|  | **(a)** | **(b)** | **(c)** | **(d)** | **(e)** | **(f)** | **(g)=(b)-(f)** | **(h)** | **(i)** |
|  | **£** | **£** | **£** |  |  | **£** | **£** |  |  |
| 13 | 40,696 | 126,184 | 585,941 | 21.5% | Yes | 0 | 126,184 | 21.5% | Yes |
| 14 | 67,080 | 132,785 | 1,204,687 | 11.0% | Yes | 10,000 | 122,785 | 10.2% | Yes |
| 15 | 107,430 | 90,537 | 1,475,825 | 6.1% |   | 25,587 | 64,950 | 4.4% |   |
| 16 | 9,551 | 67,236 | 1,521,228 | 4.4% |   | 19,658 | 47,578 | 3.1% |   |
| 17 | 61,166 | 205,470 | 1,619,782 | 12.7% | Yes | 77,750 | 127,720 | 7.9% |   |
| **Total All Sectors** | **1,036,210** | **1,938,374** | **20,183,931** |  | **7** | **542,259** | **1,396,115** |  | **6** |