**Report to Hartlepool Schools’ Forum 9 July 2021**

**From Amanda Whitehead – Assistant Director Education**

# Agenda Item 8 – Review of Final 2020/21 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 any schools that trigger the excess balance percentage (8% for primary schools and 5% for secondary schools).
2. **Background**
   1. All schools were invited to participate in the survey. All maintained schools responded to the survey. No responses were received from academies and they were therefore excluded from the review.
   2. As the purpose of the survey is to assist schools in avoiding excess balances, schools with a deficit balance are excluded from the listing contained in this report.
   3. The listing excludes any schools that have converted to academy by 31 March 2021.
3. **Survey Results**
   1. The details by school are shown in **APPENDIX 1.**
   2. Column (a) shows that the actual school balances remaining at as 31 March 2021 (excluding schools with a deficit balance) was £2,061,197. Of this amount, £577,324 has been used by schools to support their 2021/22 budget, with a further £295,594 spend assessed by schools as committed declared within the school balances surveys.
   3. As shown in column (k), 4 of the 13 maintained primary schools with a positive balance had balances remaining which exceeded 8% of their 2021/22 Individual School Budget (ISB).

**4 Recommendations**

4.1 To ensure that schools do not carry an excess level of balances and that schools are spending their balances effectively, it is recommended that Forum:

1. note the contents of the report;
2. ask the Chair to convene the Excess Balances Panel for the 4 primary schools beyond the agreed threshold.

**APPENDIX 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School** | **Actual Balances @ 31/3/21** | **Approved Budget Share 2021/22** | **Actual Balance 31.3.21 as % of 2021/22 ISB** | **Above the generally accepted levels** | **Balances @ 31/3/21 used to support 2021/22 Budget** | **Balances remaining after setting 2021/22 Budget** | **Balances remaining after setting 2021/22 Budget as % of 2021/22 ISB** | **Additional commitment to support 2021/22 Budget identified on Balances Survey** | **Balances remaining after total commitment to support 2021/22 Budget** | **Projected Closing Balance 31.3.22 after total commitment to support 2021/22 as % of 2021/22 ISB** | **Above the generally accepted levels** |
|  | **(a)** | **(b)** | **(c)** | **(d)** | **(e)** | **(a)-(e)=(f)** | **(g)** | **(h)** | **(i)** | **(j)** | **(k)** |
|  | **£** | **£** |  |  | **£** | **£** |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | 268,215 | 1,449,682 | 18.5% | Yes | 47,702 | 220,513 | 15.2% | 7,500 | 213,013 | 14.7% | Yes |
| 2 | 318,591 | 1,670,562 | 19.1% | Yes | 0 | 318,591 | 19.1% | 0 | 318,591 | 19.1% | Yes |
| 3 | 90,844 | 624,234 | 14.6% | Yes | 75,815 | 15,029 | 2.4% | 0 | 15,029 | 2.4% |  |
| 4 | 95,492 | 1,657,250 | 5.8% |  | 70,376 | 25,116 | 1.5% | 0 | 25,116 | 1.5% |  |
| 5 | 137,160 | 525,674 | 26.1% | Yes | 23,536 | 113,624 | 21.6% | 0 | 113,624 | 21.6% | Yes |
| 6 | 148,233 | 1,929,179 | 7.7% |  | 50,000 | 98,233 | 5.1% | 64,500 | 33,733 | 1.7% |  |
| 7 | 145,421 | 1,440,198 | 10.1% | Yes | 77,769 | 67,652 | 4.7% | 0 | 67,652 | 4.7% |  |
| 8 | 42,889 | 1,151,163 | 3.7% |  | 0 | 42,889 | 3.7% | 42,889 | 0 | 0.0% |  |
| 9 | 342,560 | 1,264,746 | 27.1% | Yes | 164,319 | 178,241 | 14.1% | 105,000 | 73,241 | 5.8% |  |
| 10 | 58,677 | 942,486 | 6.2% |  | 0 | 58,677 | 6.2% | 0 | 58,677 | 6.2% |  |
| 11 | 174,043 | 1,721,645 | 10.1% | Yes | 0 | 174,043 | 10.1% | 75,705 | 98,337 | 5.7% |  |
| 12 | 24,053 | 7,074,366 | 0.3% |  | 0 | 24,053 | 0.3% | 0 | 24,053 | 0.3% |  |
| 13 | 215,018 | 1,688,825 | 12.7% | Yes | 67,807 | 147,211 | 8.7% | 0 | 147,211 | 8.7% | Yes |
| **Total All Sectors** | **2,061,197** | **23,140,011** |  | **8** | **577,324** | **1,483,873** |  | **295,594** | **1,188,279** |  | **4** |