

REPORT TO: Schools Forum
DATE: 12th June 2019
REPORTING OFFICER: Senior Finance Officer
SUBJECT: School Balances 2018-19
WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report to the Schools Forum the level of funding brought forward from 208-19 by Halton Maintained Schools.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 The report is noted.
- 2.2 That the Schools Forum decides if any schools are to provide further information regarding their high balance.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 While balances are still reported to the Schools Forum, no excess surplus balance limits are in place. However, the Schools Forum retains the right to require schools to provide further information as to how their balance will be spent should they so decide.
- 3.2 The Individual School Budget balances for Halton maintained schools at the end of 2018-19 is £4,479,946. This is an increase of £777,075 compared to the balances for 2017-18. All schools ended the year with a surplus balance although it should be noted that 22 of the 54 schools have a lower surplus than last year.
- 3.3 For the maintained nursery schools, balances have increased by £78,883 to £121,019.
- 3.4 For maintained primary schools, balances have increased by £546,169 to £3,918,438.
- 3.5 For maintained secondary schools, balances have increased by £154,473 to £184,935.
- 3.6 For maintained special schools, balances have decreased by £2,451 to £255,554. This takes into account the conversion of Brookfields Special School in September 2018.

- 3.7 Appendix A shows the balances for each maintained school, along with their 2017-18 balance for comparison.
- 3.8 The balances of Devolved Formula Capital grant for maintained schools has increased by £122,851 to £396,645..
- 3.9 Appendix B shows the balances for each maintained school, along with their 2017-18 balance for comparison.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is pleasing to note that overall school balances have increased. It is equally pleasing to note that no school has ended the year with a deficit. However, with 22 schools having to use part of last year's surplus to meet their spend during 2018-19, totalling £448,797 it has to be recognised that some schools are still facing financial difficulties.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

It is essential that schools receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.

5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

5.4 A Safer Halton

None.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 Schools continue to face increasing cost pressures and there is a risk that schools will face financial difficulties going forward. We look forward to the ending of the transitional protection on the National Funding Formula which should release a further £1.5M into Halton's Schools Block of the DSG.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.