

**REPORT TO:** Schools' Forum

**DATE:** 19th June 2024

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Finance

**PORTFOLIO:** Children & Young People

**SUBJECT:** School Balances 2023-24

**WARD(S)** Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To report to the Schools' Forum the level of Revenue and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) funding brought forward from 2023-24 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 Revenue Surplus balance.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 While balances are still required to be reported to the Schools' Forum, no excess surplus balance limits are currently 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 In accordance with statutory requirements, including the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS), schools are expected to sustain 'reasonable' levels of surplus balances and demonstrate 'Value for Money' through effective plans for spending their budgets.
- 3.3 Despite the excess surplus thresholds no longer being a mandatory consideration to the Controls on Surplus Balances provision, the original maximum recommended thresholds are still commonly referred to, including by Ofsted, at 5% for Secondary and 8% for Nursery, Primary, and Special schools.
- 3.4 **Appendix A** shows the Revenue balances for each Maintained school, along with their 2022-23 balance for comparison.
- 3.5 The overall net surplus School Budget balances position for Halton maintained schools at the end of 2023-24 is **£6,519,071**.

- 3.6 Out of 46 Maintained schools, there are 40 (87%) with Surplus balances and 6 (13%) with a Deficit position at the end of 2023-24.
- 3.7 Of the 40 with surplus balances, 19 (representing 48% of all Maintained schools) have accumulated surplus balances above the original maximum thresholds of 5% and 8%. The schools above the maximum thresholds are highlighted in blue at Appendix A.
- 3.8 When compared to 2022-23 there are 21 (46%) Maintained schools that have increased their Surplus balance, and 25 (54%) that have decreased their balance from the previous financial year.
- 3.10 **Appendix B** shows the Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) balances for each Maintained school, along with their 2023-24 balance for comparison.
- 3.11 The balance of DFC for Maintained schools has decreased by £259,965 to **£364,562** at the end of 2023-24. This decrease is due in the main to the utilisation of additional capital funding to support schools with energy efficiency initiatives and developments.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 It is pleasing to note that, despite the many costs pressures being faced by schools, the overall school balances have been sustained at over £6.5m.
- 4.2 The increased Devolved Formula Capital balance, from the additional funding referred to above, will greatly assist schools in developing and installing energy efficiency measures which should help them sustain longer-term cost efficiencies and financial benefits to their Revenue budget positions.

#### **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 potentially schools will face financial difficulties going forwards due to an upward trend of rising costs evident within key budget areas. Controlled fiscal management of budgets will have to be prioritised by schools.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 None.

**8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None identified.

### Maintained Schools Final Outturn Balances 2023-24

Costc	School	Balance	% Balance
		2023-24	
5001	Ditton Nursery School	-48,491	-17.94%
5002	Birchfield Nursery School	53,792	9.84%
5003	Warrington Road Nursery School	-8,190	-1.64%
<b>Total Nursery Schools</b>		<b>-2,888</b>	

### APPENDIX A

2022/23 Balance	Variance to 2023/24	% Variance to 2023/24
-44,219	-4,272	9.66%
3,842	49,950	1300.10%
26,074	-34,264	-131.41%
<b>-14,303</b>	<b>11,415</b>	<b>-79.81%</b>

### Primary Schools

5100	St Mary's CE Primary	419,883	25.36%
5101	St Edwards Catholic Primary	35,557	3.81%
5105	Victoria Road Primary School	41,968	2.86%
5106	Weston Primary School	-7,416	-0.60%
5107	St Clements Catholic Primary School	153,829	12.22%
5108	Westfield Primary School	39,936	4.47%
5110	Castle View Primary School	56,203	4.21%
5111	Astmoor Primary School	8,608	0.81%
5112	The Brow Community Primary	288,109	16.06%
5113	Woodside Primary School	-29,213	-2.48%
5114	The Holy Spirit Catholic Primary	7,454	0.79%
5116	Pewithall Primary School	46,640	3.65%
5118	Hallwood Park Primary School	16,002	1.78%
5120	Runcorn All Saints Ce Primary	155,356	14.38%
5121	Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Catholic Primary	214,125	13.92%
5122	Hillview Primary School	104,992	8.93%
5123	Beechwood Primary School	65,173	5.41%
5125	Brookvale Primary School	246,247	11.53%
5126	St Martins Cath Primary School	-42,087	-3.10%
5127	Murdishaw West Comm Primary School	69,672	5.87%
5128	Gorsewood Primary School	436,386	23.88%
5129	St Berteline's CE Primary	73,830	4.53%

420,005	-122.07	-0.03%
74,305	-38,748	-52.15%
140,232	-98,264	-70.07%
35,352	-42,768	-120.98%
65,741	88,088	133.99%
-4,737	44,673	-943.07%
104,322	-48,119	-46.13%
44,639	-36,031	-80.72%
248,588	39,521	15.90%
64,144	-93,357	-145.54%
3,750	3,704	98.76%
20,238	26,402	130.46%
60,810	-44,808	-73.69%
107,113	48,243	45.04%
221,114	-6,989	-3.16%
108,059	-3,067	-2.84%
55,637	9,536	17.14%
417,762	-171,515	-41.06%
-42,536	449	-1.06%
107,207	-37,535	-35.01%
403,440	32,946	8.17%
46,739	27,091	57.96%

Costc	School	Balance	% Balance	2022/23 Balance	Variance to 2023/24	% Variance to 2023/24
		2023-24				
5130	Windmill Hill Primary School	76,053	5.18%	223,033	-146,980	-65.90%
5132	Moore Primary School	174,452	13.71%	168,327	6,125	3.64%
5133	Hale CE Vol Contr Primary	15,965	1.38%	32,766	-16,801	-51.27%
5134	St Bedes Catholic Junior School	202,760	10.36%	215,492	-12,732	-5.91%
5135	St Bedes Catholic Infant School	81,333	5.65%	80,069	1,264	1.58%
5137	St Michael's Catholic Primary School	65,626	3.71%	89,712	-24,086	-26.85%
5138	Farnworth CE Controlled Primary	162,093	6.81%	207,455	-45,362	-21.87%
5139	Halebank CE Voluntary Controlled Primary	75,102	7.94%	120,529	-45,427	-37.69%
5140	St Gerard's Catholic Primary & Nursery	310,199	16.60%	342,028	-31,829	-9.31%
5144	Oakfield Primary School	412,929	14.73%	299,700	113,229	37.78%
5146	Moorfield Primary School	45,227	2.90%	37,194	8,033	21.60%
5148	Our Lady Of Perpetual Succour Primary	171,998	12.34%	110,992	61,006	54.96%
5149	St Basils Catholic Primary	217,047	10.01%	378,029	-160,982	-42.58%
5150	All Saints Upton CE Voluntary Controlled Primary	73,693	4.90%	83,239	-9,546	-11.47%
5151	Fairfield Primary	236,717	6.08%	231,645	5,072	2.19%
5153	Lunts Heath Primary School	173,091	7.30%	274,856	-101,765	-37.02%
5154	St John Fisher Catholic Primary	121,158	8.63%	77,948	43,210	55.43%
<b>Total Primary Schools</b>		<b>5,016,698</b>		<b>5,674,938</b>	<b>-658,240</b>	<b>-10.10%</b>

### Secondary Schools

5312	St Peter & Paul Catholic High	585,841	5.68%	532,342	53,499	10.05%
5313	The Bridge School PRU	-63,115	0.00%	-41,441	-21,674	52.30%
5315	The Bridge - Astmoor Skill Centre					
<b>Total Secondary Schools</b>		<b>522,725</b>		<b>490,901</b>	<b>31,824</b>	<b>65.40%</b>

### Special Schools

5401	Ashley School	566,894	18.40%	526,438	40,456	7.68%
5402	Chesnut Lodge Special School	415,642	14.75%	366,802	48,840	13.32%
<b>Total Special Schools</b>		<b>982,536</b>		<b>893,240</b>	<b>89,296</b>	<b>63.00%</b>

<b>TOTAL ALL SCHOOLS</b>	<b>6,519,071</b>	<b>8.14%</b>
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7,044,776	<b>-525,705</b>	<b>-7.46%</b>
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Surplus Balance	40	87%
<i>of which Surplus is above Ofsted recommended thresholds of 5% or 8%</i>	19	48%
Deficit Balance	<b>6</b>	13%

Increased	21	46%
Decreased	25	54%
Total	<b>46</b>	

**APPENDIX  
B**

<b>Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) Balances 2023-24</b>		<b>Balance 2023-24</b>	<b>Balance 2022-23</b>	<b>Variance to 2023-24</b>
	5591 Ditton Nursery Non LMS	15,720.00	15,127.00	593.00
NURSSCH	5592 Birchfield Nursery Non LMS	2,403.50	11,793.00	-9,389.50
	5593 Warrington Road Non LMS	9,066.00	14,245.00	-5,179.00
Total		<b>27,189.50</b>	<b>41,165.00</b>	<b>-13,975.50</b>
PRIMSCH	5502 Weston Point Non LMS	15,004.75	13,330.00	1,674.75
	5505 Victoria Road Non LMS	9,281.08	13,866.00	-4,584.92
	5506 Weston Non LMS	21,837.14	24,247.00	-2,409.86
	5508 Westfield Non LMS	6,467.17	17,857.00	-11,389.83
	5509 Halton Lodge Non LMS	90.25	21,822.00	-21,731.75
	5510 Castle View Non LMS	12,577.80	30,932.00	-18,354.20
	5511 Astmoor Non LMS	5,474.02	34,493.00	-29,018.98
	5512 The Brow Non LMS	24,160.38	21,309.00	2,851.38
	5513 Woodside Non LMS	15,155.75	9,817.00	5,338.75
	5516 Pewithall Non LMS	2,532.25	13,221.00	-10,688.75
	5518 Hallwood Park Non LMS	7,916.16	22,785.00	-14,868.84
	5521 Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Non LMS	0.00	0.00	0.00
	5522 Hillview Non LMS	26,314.00	23,189.00	3,125.00
	5523 Beechwood Non LMS	19,048.13	13,219.00	5,829.13
	5525 Brookvale Primary Non LMS	948.25	15,328.00	-14,379.75
	5527 Murdishaw West Non LMS	5,794.99	18,631.00	-12,836.01
	5528 Murdishaw Gorsewood Non LMS	28,127.16	29,249.00	-1,121.84
	5530 Windmill Hill Non LMS	4,483.75	21,478.00	-16,994.25
	5532 Moore Non LMS	10,708.63	14,303.00	-3,594.37
	5533 Hale Non LMS	11,372.75	16,855.00	-5,482.25
	5538 Farnworth Non LMS	9,588.63	28,238.00	-18,649.37
	5539 Halebank Non LMS	21,540.67	18,292.00	3,248.67
	5544 Oakfield Primary Non LMS	14,981.35	21,018.00	-6,036.65
	5546 Moorfield Non LMS	1,231.11	5,327.00	-4,095.89
	5550 All Saints Upton Non LMS	17,413.61	25,376.00	-7,962.39
	5551 Fairfield Primary School Non LMS	27,368.88	42,967.00	-15,598.12
	5553 Lunts Heath Non LMS	0.00	19,098.00	-19,098.00
Total		<b>319,418.66</b>	<b>536,247.00</b>	<b>216,828.34</b>
SPECSCH	5581 Ashley School Non LMS	2,385.63	29,133.00	-26,747.37
	5582 Chesnut Lodge Non LMS	15,569.19	17,983.00	-2,413.81
Total		<b>17,954.82</b>	<b>47,116.00</b>	<b>-29,161.18</b>
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	<b>Grand Total DFC</b>	<b>364,562.98</b>	<b>624,528.00</b>	<b>259,965.02</b>