

REPORT TO: School Forum

DATE: 12 October 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

SUBJECT: Excess Surplus School Balances 2014-15

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To report to the School Forum the intended use of the Excess Surplus School balances from 2014-15

2.0 Recommendation

RECOMMENDED: That the intended excess surplus school balance usage is noted and that a decision is made as to whether the information received is adequate and whether School Forum require any further information.

3.0 Background

The decision was made by School Forum in January 2013 that the previous excess surplus school balance limits of 5% for Secondary schools and 8% for Primary schools was removed.

At the June 2015 School Forum it was asked that schools with an amount over the previous 5% and 8% provide details for the balance and submit the information to the October School Forum.

3.1 It must be noted that the carry forward for both Lunts Heath Primary and Fairfield Primary had been overstated due to an error on behalf of the Financial Management team and was recorded incorrectly at the June 2015 School Forum meeting. This has now been amended and the correct carry forward figures are as follows:

Lunts Heath Primary carry forward actual £59,028
Lunts Heath Primary carry forward originally recorded £137,803
Lunts Heath Primary carry forward overstated by £78,775

Fairfield Primary carry forward actual £397,832
Fairfield Primary carry forward originally recorded £521,506
Fairfield Primary carry forward overstated by £123,674

3.2 32 schools had a balance that was over the previous 5% or 8% limits and they were contacted and asked to complete a pro forma. Out of the 32 schools all of them have now responded and the pro-forma that they completed has been circulated.

The responses were that schools are spending their excess balances on either additional staffing costs, or various improvements to the school playground / classrooms / buildings etc.