

**REPORT TO:** School Forum  
**DATE:** 21st June 2017  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Finance Officer, Financial Management Division  
**SUBJECT:** School Balances 2016-17

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To report to the School Forum the level of balances brought forward from 2016-17 by Halton Schools.

## 2.0 Recommendation

### RECOMMENDED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That School Forum notes the responses from schools which have balances in excess of 8% (5% for secondary schools) as to why their balances are so high.

## 3.0 Background

3.1 Following discussion at the School Forum meeting in January 2013, the excess surplus balance limits previously imposed on schools were lifted for 2012-13 and has continued up to 2016-17. However the balances were still to be monitored.

3.2 The level of balances in the Individual School Budget held by Halton Schools brought forward into 2017-18 is £4,775,832. This is a decrease of £1,602,081 to the balance carried forward into 2016-17 of £6,377,913.

3.3 It should be noted that the Primary sector balances have decreased by £961,785 from £4,851,463 to £3,889,678 over the year. Out of the 45 maintained primaries, 19 have balances that exceed the former excess surplus balance limit of 8% and one of those 19 have balances in excess of 16%, double the former excess surplus balance limit.

At the end of 2016-17, Nursery school balances decreased by £66,208 from £99,577 to £33,369.

Overall the secondary school sector balance has decreased by £171,154 from £798,174 to £627,020. Two of the three Secondary schools have seen a reduction in their carry forward balances from the previous year.

For special schools the overall sector balance has decreased by £402,934 from £628,699 to £225,765.

- 3.4 Given the increasing pressures on the Dedicated Schools Budget as a whole, it was agreed at Schools Forum in June 2015 that schools with balances above the former excess surplus balance limit are requested to provide an explanation as to how they plan to spend this high balance.
- 3.5 Appendix A details the Individual School Budget balances with comparison to the previous year. Schools which have balances above the former excess surplus balance limit are highlighted.
- 3.6 A total of £284,292 Non-LMS funds were carried forward into 2016-17 by schools. This balance has decreased by £54,747 to give a balance of £229,545 to be carried forward into 2017-18.
- 3.7 Appendix B details the Non-LMS (Devolved Formula Capital) balances brought forward into 2017-18.