

**REPORT TO:** School Forum

**DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Senior Finance Officer, Financial Management Division

**SUBJECT:** School Balances used to set budgets in 2016-17 and 2017-18

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To report to the School Forum the level of balances brought forward from 2015-16 used to set budgets in 2016-17 and the balances brought forward from 2016-17 used to set budgets in 2017-18.

**2.0 Recommendation**

RECOMMENDED:

2.1 That the report be noted.

**3.0 Background**

3.1 Following the June report on school end of financial year balances, Schools Forum requested that we look at the level of school balances that are being used in order to set the budget. For this purpose we have gathered information over the last two years.

3.2 At the end of 2015-16 a total of £6,353,305.01 was carried forward by maintained schools (who are still maintained). Of this, £3,684,989.13 was used to set the budget for 2016-17. This equates to 58.0% although the average used by schools was 70.27%.

3.3 For 2017-18 budgets, from a total carry forward of £4,542,173.52 for maintained schools £2,701,564.63 was used to set the budgets. This equates to 59.5% although the average used by schools reduced to 67.87%.

3.4 Although the overall carry forward balances for 2016-17 have reduced by 28.5%, the proportion used in order to set budgets has reduced by 26.7%. It should be noted that we have been unable to include the proportion used to set budgets for all schools.

3.5 Appendix A shows the detail by school for the two years.