

REPORT TO: Schools Forum
DATE: 17th June 2020
REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director - Finance
SUBJECT: School Balances 2019-20
WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Schools Forum the level of funding brought forward from 2019-20 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 2019-20 is £4,592,253. This is an increase of £112,306 compared to the balances for 2018-19. However, it should be noted that not all schools ended the year with a surplus balance, 3 had a deficit balance and of the other 49 schools 19 had a lower surplus than last year. The PRU has a surplus balance which offsets the deficit balance of the PRU Astmoor Skill Centre.
- 3.3 For the maintained nursery schools, balances have increased by £44,239 to £165,258.
- 3.4 For maintained primary schools, balances have increased by £43,542 to £3,961,980.
- 3.5 For maintained secondary schools, balances have decreased by £3,278 to £181,658.
- 3.6 For maintained special schools, balances have increased by £27,803 to £283,357.

- 3.7 Appendix A shows the balances for each maintained school, along with their 2018-19 balance for comparison.
- 3.8 The balances of Devolved Formula Capital grant for maintained schools has decreased by £129,395 to £267,251.
- 3.9 Appendix B shows the balances for each maintained school, along with their 2018-19 balance for comparison.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is pleasing to note that overall school balances have increased. However, with 19 schools having to use part of last year's surplus to meet their spend during 2019-20 as well as 3 schools ending the year in a deficit position 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 although we are now seeing the full NFF funding coming through to Halton. While the Department for Education have set up a financial support package for schools to cover certain additional costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it does not cover loss of income. For some schools this is a considerable amount and will only serve to further increase budgetary pressures.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 None.