

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 16th June 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director - Finance

SUBJECT: School Balances 2020-21

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Schools Forum the level of funding brought forward from 2020-21 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 2020-21 is £7,147,819. This is an increase of £2,601,375 compared to the balances for 2019-20. However, it should be noted that not all schools ended the year with a surplus balance, 2 had a deficit balance and of the other 49 schools, 5 had a lower surplus than last year.
- 3.3 For the maintained nursery schools, balances have increased by £24,169 to £144,598.
- 3.4 For maintained primary schools, balances have increased by £2,603,384 to £6,564,365.
- 3.5 For maintained secondary schools, balances have increased by £11,434 to £193,112.
- 3.6 For maintained special schools, balances have decreased by £37,613 to £245,744.
- 3.7 Appendix A shows the balances for each maintained school, along with their 2019-20 balance for comparison.

3.8 The balances of Devolved Formula Capital grant for maintained schools has increased by £6,815.

3.9 Appendix B shows the balances for each maintained school, along with their 2019-20 balance for comparison.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 It is pleasing to note that overall school balances have increased. The higher school balances are in part due to favourable allocations at the start of the year as well as limited spend on controllable items due to various lockdown periods throughout the year.

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.