

REPORT TO: Schools Forum

DATE: 13th July 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director - Finance

SUBJECT: School Balances 2021-22

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report to the Schools Forum the level of funding brought forward from 2021-22 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 2021-22 is £7,706,982. This is an increase of £607,724 compared to the balances for 2020-21. All the schools ended up with a surplus balances (albeit of differing amounts) apart from The Bridge Astmoor Skill Centre which ended up with a £664,047 deficit.

3.3 However, taking into consideration the main PRU which is the Bridge School ending up with a surplus balance of £490,307 combining both gives a total deficit balance for the whole PRU provision of £173,740.

3.4 For the maintained nursery schools, balances have decreased by £52,461 to £92,137.

3.5 For maintained primary schools, balances have decreased by £19,687 to £6,496,117.

3.6 For maintained secondary schools, balances have increased by £377,470 to £570,581.

- 3.7 For maintained special schools, balances have increased by £302,402 to £548,147.
- 3.8 Appendix A shows the balances for each maintained school, along with their 2020-21 balance for comparison.
- 3.9 The balances of Devolved Formula Capital grant for maintained schools has decreased by £52,840 to £207, 909.
- 3.10 Appendix B shows the balances for each maintained school, along with their 2020-21 balance for comparison.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is pleasing to note that overall school balances have increased slightly from the previous year but have not been to the level seen in the previous year. This is in part due to inflation and higher costs being borne by schools impacting particularly both the Nursery and Primary sectors.

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 and there is a risk that potentially schools will face financial difficulties going forwards due to an upward trend of rising costs evident within key budget areas. Controlled fiscal management of budgets will have to be prioritised by schools.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 None.