

REPORT TO: Schools' Forum

DATE: 11th June 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Finance

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People & Families

SUBJECT: School Balances 2024-25

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To report to the Schools' Forum the level of Revenue and Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) funding brought forward from 2024-25 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 Revenue Surplus balance.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 While balances are still required to be reported to the Schools' Forum, no excess surplus balance limits are currently 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 In accordance with statutory requirements, including the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS), schools are expected to sustain 'reasonable' levels of surplus balances and demonstrate 'Value for Money' through effective plans for spending their budgets.
- 3.3 Despite the excess surplus thresholds no longer being a mandatory consideration to the controls on surplus balances provision, the original maximum recommended thresholds are still commonly referred to, including by Ofsted, at 5% for Secondary and 8% for Nursery, Primary, and Special schools.
- 3.4 **Appendix A** shows the Revenue balances for each Maintained school, along with their 2023-24 balance for comparison.
- 3.5 The overall net surplus School Budget balances position for Halton maintained schools at the end of 2024-25 is **£6,192,994**.

- 3.6 Out of 44 Maintained schools, there are 36 (82%) with Surplus balances and 8 (18%) with a Deficit position at the end of 2024-25.
- 3.7 Of the 36 with surplus balances, 24 (representing 55% of all Maintained schools) have accumulated surplus balances above the original maximum thresholds of 5% and 8%. The schools above the maximum thresholds are highlighted in blue at Appendix A.
- 3. **Appendix B** shows the Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) balances for each Maintained school, along with their 2024-25 balance for comparison.
- 3.11 The balance of DFC for maintained schools has decreased by £50,975 to **£240,097** at the end of 2024-25. This decrease is due in the main to the utilisation of additional capital funding to support schools with energy efficiency initiatives and developments.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is noted that, despite the many costs pressures being faced by schools, the overall school balances have been sustained at over £6m. The number of schools reporting deficit positions at 31 March 2025 has increased from the previous by 2 to 8 overall.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 5.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**
None
- 5.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**
None
- 5.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**
It is essential that schools receive sufficient funding to allow them to support all children and young people.
- 5.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**
None
- 5.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future**
None
- 5.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**
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.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

Maintained Schools Final Outturn Balances 2024-25				Appendix A	
Costc	School	Balance 2024-25	% Balance	2023/24 Balance	Variance to 2023/24
5001	Ditton Nursery School	-42,478	-15.17%	-48,491	6,013
5002	Birchfield Nursery School	80,318	14.17%	53,792	26,526
5003	Warrington Road Nursery School	73,528	18.39%	-8,190	81,718
		111,368		-2,889	114,257
5101	St Edwards Catholic Primary	13,414	1.93%	35,557	-22,143
5105	Victoria Road Primary School	47,860	4.54%	41,968	5,892
5106	Weston Primary School	-46,339	-4.26%	-7,416	-38,923
5107	St Clements Catholic Primary Scho	110,820	10.78%	153,829	-43,009
5108	Westfield Primary School	66,868	10.26%	39,936	26,932
5110	Castle View Primary School	97,140	7.53%	56,203	40,937
5111	Astmoor Primary School	-91,982	-6.42%	8,608	-100,590
5112	The Brow Community Primary	373,559	43.68%	288,109	85,450
5113	Woodside Primary School	21,311	2.58%	-29,213	50,524
5114	The Holy Spirit Catholic Primary	-27,690	-4.05%	7,454	-35,144
5116	Pewithall Primary School	61,718	5.87%	46,640	15,078
5120	Runcorn All Saints Ce Primary	190,074	27.40%	155,356	34,718
5121	Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Cat	315,329	29.02%	214,125	101,204
5122	Hillview Primary School	68,575	7.31%	104,992	-36,417
5123	Beechwood Primary School	49,021	5.93%	65,173	-16,152
5125	Brookvale Primary School	82,606	5.68%	246,247	-163,641
5126	St Martins Cath Primary School	-153,318	-12.72%	-42,087	-111,231
5127	Murdishaw West Comm Primary Sc	84,651	10.11%	69,672	14,979
5128	Gorsewood Primary School	426,247	37.85%	436,386	-10,139
5129	St Berteline's CE Primary	86,964	6.58%	73,830	13,134
5130	Windmill Hill Primary School	30,329	2.34%	76,053	-45,724
5132	Moore Primary School	198,487	20.85%	174,452	24,035
5133	Hale CE Vol Contr Primary	-117,496	-10.65%	15,965	-133,461
5134	St Bedes Catholic Junior School	175,407	11.24%	202,760	-27,353
5135	St Bedes Catholic Infant School	143,096	12.91%	81,333	61,763
5137	St Michael's Catholic Primary Scho	-11,557	-0.64%	65,626	-77,183
5138	Farnworth CE Controlled Primary	224,180	12.24%	162,093	62,087
5139	Halebank CE Voluntary Controlled	99,487	15.07%	75,102	24,385
5140	St Gerard's Catholic Primary & Nur	230,334	17.26%	310,199	-79,865
5144	Oakfield Primary School	363,625	21.18%	412,929	-49,304
5146	Moorfield Primary School	-12,496	-0.94%	45,227	-57,723
5148	Our Lady Of Perpetual Succour Pri	175,467	16.88%	171,998	3,469
5149	St Basils Catholic Primary	322,012	25.99%	217,047	104,965
5150	All Saints Upton CE Voluntary Cont	57,655	4.77%	73,693	-16,038
5151	Fairfield Primary	186,287	5.05%	236,717	-50,430
5153	Lunts Heath Primary School	59,355	2.92%	173,091	-113,736
5154	St John Fisher Catholic Primary	117,047	10.38%	121,158	-4,111
		4,018,048		4,580,812	-562,764
5312	St Peter & Paul Catholic High	576,160	5.38%	585,841	-9,681
5313	The Bridge School PRU	363,840	12.77%	-63,115	426,955
		940,000		522,726	417,274
5401	Ashley School	765,302	35.10%	566,894	198,408
5402	Chesnut Lodge Special School	358,276	15.93%	415,642	-57,366
		1,123,578		982,536	141,042
Total All Schools		6,192,994	0.00	6,083,185	109,809

Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) Balances 2024-25			Appendix B	
5591	Ditton Nursery Non LMS	1,028	15,720	-14,692
5592	Birchfield Nursery Non LMS	1,113	2,404	-1,291
		2,141	18,124	-15,982
5502	Weston Point Non LMS	0	15,005	-15,005
5505	Victoria Road Non LMS	3,937	9,281	-5,344
5508	Westfield Non LMS	6,863	6,467	395
5510	Castle View Non LMS	16,661	12,578	4,083
5511	Astmoor Non LMS	10,824	5,474	5,350
5512	The Brow Non LMS	13,891	24,160	-10,269
5513	Woodside Non LMS	11,714	15,156	-3,442
5516	Pewithall Non LMS	1,362	2,532	-1,170
5522	Hillview Non LMS	12,357	26,314	-13,957
5523	Beechwood Non LMS	11,561	19,048	-7,488
5525	Brookvale Primary Non LMS	4,321	948	3,373
5528	Murdishaw Gorsewood Non LMS	12,613	28,127	-15,515
5530	Windmill Hill Non LMS	4,718	4,484	234
5532	Moore Non LMS	12,733	10,709	2,025
5538	Farnworth Non LMS	16,006	9,589	6,418
5539	Halebank Non LMS	15,387	21,541	-6,154
5544	Oakfield Primary Non LMS	7,210	14,981	-7,771
5546	Moorfield Non LMS	349	1,231	-882
5551	Fairfield Primary School Non LMS	21,362	27,369	-6,007
5553	Lunts Heath Non LMS	8,697	0	8,697
		192,565	254,994	-62,429
5595	The Bridge School PRU Non-LMS	37,214	0	37,214
		37,214	0	37,214
5581	Ashley School Non LMS	7,366	2,386	4,980
5582	Chesnut Lodge Non LMS	812	15,569	-14,758
		8,177	17,955	-9,778
Total All Schools		240,097	291,072	-50,975