

SLOUGH SCHOOLS FORUM
3 July 2013

Schools' Outturn for the Financial Year 2012-13
(Director of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update members of the Schools' Forum on:

- The balances held at the end of the 2012-13 financial year
- The comparison between balances held at the end of the 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Schools' Forum notes the outturn across 2012-13 based upon year end returns from schools.

2.2 That Schools Forum notes the work in progress to review balances in excess of the balance control mechanism thresholds.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is appropriate for the Schools' Forum to be aware of, and comment on, the balances held by schools at the end of the financial year.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

School Balances at 31st March 2013

5.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 provides a statutory requirement for the balance of expenditure made by each school compared to its budget share to be carried forward into the next financial year. This applies to both surplus and deficit balances. At the end of 2012-13 the unadjusted revenue balances held by maintained schools were £9,531,498.

5.2 This represents an increase of £1,219,657 or 14.7% on the same figures for 2011-12. Appendix A shows the opening revenue balances for 2012-13 together with the in-year movement and the closing revenue balance. It should be noted that schools that had converted to academy status by 1 April 2013 have been excluded from this calculation.

5.3 Balance Control Mechanism

- 5.4 Schools' Forum will be aware that Slough's Scheme for Financing Schools incorporates an updated Balance Control Mechanism to be applied where balances exceed 5% (Secondary Schools) or 8% (Primary, Special and Nursery Schools) of their funding.
- 5.5 Appendix B identifies those schools that have unadjusted balances greater than those thresholds.
- 5.6 All of the schools with balances above the appropriate threshold have been asked to supply documentary evidence detailing their plans for using the excess balances. Local Authority finance officers will continue to review plans and documentation and report back to the Schools Forum in September.
- 5.7 It should be noted that unadjusted balances exclude any commitments or grants that the schools may have in relation to those balances.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 None.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

Appendix A – Opening and Closing Balances 2012-13

Appendix B – Unadjusted Balances Compared to Balance Control
Mechanism Thresholds.

Contact for further information

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