

**SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014**

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**Schools' 2013-14 Outturn and 2014-15 Budgets**  
**(Director of Education & Children's Services)**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update members of the Schools' Forum on:
- The balances held at the end of the 2013-14 financial year
  - The comparison between balances held at the end of the 2012-13 and 2013-14 financial years.
- 1.2 To inform Schools' Forum of the budgets presented by schools for the financial year 2014-15.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum notes the information contained in appendices A, B, C and D.
- 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.
- 3.2 It is appropriate for the Schools Forum to be aware of the anticipated income and expenditure in Slough schools in 2014-15

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

All schools that had converted to academy status by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 have been excluded in the information below.

**School Balances at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

- 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 2013-14 the revenue balances held by maintained schools were £6,929,561.

5.2 This represents a decrease of £1,417,171 or 17% on the same figures for 2012-13. Appendix A shows the opening revenue balances for 2013-14, the total in-year movement together with the closing revenue balance. It should be noted that schools that had converted to academy status by 1 April 2014 have been excluded from this calculation.

### 5.3 **Balance Control Mechanism**

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.

5.4 Appendix B identifies those schools that have balances greater than those thresholds.

5.5 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.

### 5.6 **Schools 2014-15 Budget Plans**

As members of the Schools' Forum are aware, schools are required to submit budget plans to the authority by 31<sup>st</sup> May each year. These must be authorised by the governing body.

5.7 Appendix C is a summary of the 2014-15 revenue budget plans submitted by schools.

## **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 – Summary of outturn 2013-14

Appendix B – Balance Control Mechanism

Appendix C – Summary of 2014 -15 school budgets

Appendix D – Comparison between outturn 2013-14 and budgets 2014-15

### Contact for further information

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