

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
17th September 2014

Balance Control Mechanism for 2013-14
(Director of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Schools' Forum of the surplus balances held by individual schools, and whether the schools have plans to use those balances in the following year.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Schools' Forum notes the surplus balances and consider whether further steps as part of the balance control mechanism process are required.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1.1 Schools have the right to carry forward surplus balances from one financial year to the next.
- 3.1.2 Schools are required to complete a return on their planned use of balances within an approved budget plan.
- 3.1.3 The revenue balance control mechanism is used to determine whether the surplus balance exceeds the threshold (8% for primary schools and 5% for secondary schools).
- 3.1.4 Any surplus balance that exceeds the threshold, which has no evidence provided for how it will be spent, is eligible for potential claw back.
- 3.1.5 There were 17 schools that exceeded the relevant thresholds (5 nurseries, 9 Primary schools and 3 secondary schools). 16 schools have provided satisfactory returns detailing future plans of expenditure for balances that exceed the threshold.
- 3.1.6 Only 1 School is yet to provide a response, Western House Primary. Western House has now converted to academy status. Correspondence has been sent to the school reminding them of the need to provide necessary information for Balance Control Mechanism process.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 Appendix A – Schools Balances that exceed the BCM threshold

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

None

Contact for further information

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