

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 23rd June 2010

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

School Balances

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is for information only and advises the Forum of the school balances as at 31st March 2010. The balances have reduced from £9.2m to £8.4m. This represents a year on year reduction of £0.8m (8%).

1. Summarised Balances

Total balances include Standards Fund carry forwards, which can be spent until the following August. An amount of £104,000 has been capitalised from 3 schools' revenue budgets towards capital projects.

	2008/09 Balances	2009/10 Balances	Increase/ (Decrease)
Nursery	£91,162	£192,770	£101,608
Primary	£3,847,461	£3,638,505	(£208,936)
Secondary	£4,299,099	£3,439,997	(£859,102)
Special	£945,597	£1,155,959	£210,362
Total	£9,183,319	£8,427,231	(£756,088)

The Standards Fund element of the carry forward above has reduced from £3.3m to £3.0m as at 31st March 2010.

	2008/09 Standards Fund Balances	2009/10 Standards Fund Balances	Increase/ (Decrease)
Nursery	£18,084	£49,522	£31,438
Primary	£1,285,750	£1,173,883	(£111,867)
Secondary	£1,798,847	£1,541,186	(£257,661)
Special	£268,364	£305,424	£37,060
Total	£3,371,045	£3,070,015	(£301,030)

From 2011/12 the DfE have proposed that a number of grants, including School Development Grant and School Standards Grant, will form part of the DSG.

2. Deficit Budgets

There are a number of schools who were in deficit as at 31st March 2010; the table below details the number of schools in deficit and the total amount. The numbers in brackets detail the schools in deficit as at 31st March 2009.

	No. of Schools in Deficit		Total Amount	Average Deficit
Nursery	0	(0)	£0	£0
Primary	15	(13)	£245,160	£16,344
Secondary	5	(4)	£985,620	£246,405
Special	0	(0)	£0	£0
Total	20	(17)	£1,230,780	£262,749

The average secondary school deficit has increased from £141,000 to £246,000
Some of the schools with deficit balances in March 2010 have set balanced budgets for 2010/11 financial year. There are 14 schools that have or are seeking a licensed deficit in this financial year, compared to 10 last year.

4. Excess Balances

Five schools have an excess balance above the 5 or 8%, after standards and cluster funds have been deducted. The table below details the amounts to be deducted, based on the 5% levy set for 2009/10 balances. Excess deductions made up to 31st March 2009 are £136,499. A decision on how this will be re-allocated will be taken at the end of the funding period. DfE guidance suggests the use of clawback funds for invest to save priorities.

	No. of Schools with an excess	Total Amount
Nursery	0	£0
Primary	3	£516
Secondary	0	£0
Special	2	£994
Total	5	£1,510

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Forum notes the report.
2. That the levy increases to 8% for excess balances at 31/3/2011.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services