

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 21st JANUARY 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SURPLUS SCHOOL BALANCES - DEDUCTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates the Forum on surplus balances deducted from schools

1. School Balance Deductions

The Appendix attached identifies school balances at 31st March 2008, with separate amounts shown for Standards Funds balances. They are:

	Amount (£)	Increase from 2006-07 (£)
Non Standards Fund	8,798,546	1,597,065
Standards Funds	3,135,032	354,676

2. Excess Balances

The initial excess balance calculation was £1.4m across all schools. Expenditure plans have been submitted for this amount from schools exceeding the 5 or 8% thresholds.

In summary responses show that in the region of £700,000 is required as a contribution to capital, £600,000 for school rolls and £100,000 for ICT replacement. Plans not accepted total £28,055.

This has resulted in three schools having deductions for excess balances as at 31st March 2008. They are :

	£
Brentwood	3,761
Millfields	1,497
Observatory School	22,792
	28,055

3. Accumulated deductions

Over the past three years the total amount deducted as a result of this mechanism is £139,273.

The Scheme for Financing Schools states that amounts deducted are to be applied to the Schools Budget. If this was distributed evenly to all schools each would gain in the region of £1,000. This is not recommended at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

1. In view of the sums involved decisions on how excess balance deductions are to be utilised should be deferred until the end of the current funding period in 2010-11.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services