

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 2nd JULY 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Delegated School Balances as at 31st March 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report advises the Forum of school balances as at 31st March 2014, together with a number of DfE indicators that comment on overall financial management in Local Authority (LA) Maintained Schools.

1. School Balances

School balances at 31st March 2014 are £11.7m. This represents a reduction of £170,000 when academy conversions are excluded.

	2012/13 Balances	2013/14 Balances	Difference	Change
Nursery	£374,902	£616,046	£241,144	Increase
Primary	£6,197,546	£5,856,780	-£340,766	Reduction
Secondary	£3,475,461	£3,635,423	£159,962	Increase
Special	£1,806,936	£1,444,310	-£362,626	Reduction
EMAP (WASP)	£0	£130,370	£130,370	Increase
Total	£11,854,845	£11,682,929	-£171,916	
Academy Schools	£81,884			
Total	£11,936,729			

The average school balance for a primary has reduced to £65,806 compared to £69,771 in 2012-13. Secondary schools' average balance has increased from £496,494 to £519,346. EMAP (WASP) have a delegated budget from April 2013, so has no previous year comparison.

In addition there are separate school reserves for capital schemes totalling £1.3m.

2. Deficit Budgets

There were 7 primary schools with a deficit balance as at 31st March 2013, with an average deficit of £25,498, 2.4% of their budget.

There are 4 schools that have requested a licensed deficit in this financial year, to date. 3 of which had a deficit at the end of 2013-14.

3. Balances over 5 or 8%

Although school balances have not increased this year there are still 40 schools with balances above the indicative excess thresholds set by the DfE (8% of delegated budget for Primary and Special Schools and 5% Secondary Schools). A comparison with 2012-13 is set out below:-

	2012-13		2013-14	
	No. of Schools	Excess Total	No. of Schools	Excess Total
Primary	32	£1,277,545	28	£1,022,145
Secondary	5	£1,906,543	6	£1,818,273
Special (incl EMAP)	9	£587,230	6	£553,704
Total	46	£3,771,318	40	£3,394,122

Excess balances account for 29% of the total school balances, but is a slight improvement on last year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Forum notes the report.
2. That schools with high balances continue to be monitored.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services