

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 15th JULY 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Delegated School Balances as at 31st March 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report advises the Forum of school balances as at 31st March 2015, 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 2015 are £10.7m. This represents a reduction of £370,986 when academy conversions are excluded.

	2013/14 Balances	2014/15 Balances	Difference	Change
Nursery	£616,046	£676,607	£60,561	Increase
Primary	£5,801,525	£6,268,671	£467,146	Increase
Secondary	£3,233,538	£2,208,899	-£1,024,639	Reduction
Special	£1,444,310	£1,570,256	£125,946	Increase
Total	£11,095,419	£10,724,433	£-370,986	
Academy Schools	587,510			
Total	£11,682,929			

The average school balance for a primary has increased to £71,235 compared to £65,806 in 2013-14. Secondary schools' average balance has reduced from £519,346 to £368,150. Townfield primary, EMAP (Emslie Morgan Academy) and Wallasey School (Kingsway Academy) have converted to academies during the year.

In addition there are separate school reserves for capital schemes totalling £676k.

2. Deficit Budgets

There were 12 primary schools with a deficit balance as at 31st March 2015, compared to 8 last year. These deficits total £321,369 which is an average deficit of 26,781. No secondary schools had a deficit at the end of the year.

There are 6 schools that have requested a licensed deficit in this financial year, to date, 2 of which had a deficit at the end of 2014-15. There are also 2 schools in the second year of their 3 year plan.

There are 4 further schools that have set deficit budgets, but as deficit amounts are less than 0.5% of delegated budget they do not need to request a licenced deficit.

3. Balances over 5 or 8%

Although school balances have not increased this year there are still 39 (40 last year) 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 2013-14 is set out below:-

	2013-14		2014-15	
	No. of Schools	Excess Total	No. of Schools	Excess Total
Primary	28	£1,022,145	31	£1,124,932
Secondary	6	£1,818,273	3	£998,472
Special	6	£553,704	5	£838,837
Total	40	£3,394,122	39	£2,962,241

Excess balances account for 28% 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