

**Schools Forum**

**9th July 2013**

**School Balances 2012/13**

**Introduction**

1. This paper sets out the position on Schools Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 within the Borough.

**Summary of Key Points**

2. Overall school balances have increased by £108k (1.87%) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 compared to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.
3. There are 10 schools which hold balances above the threshold but all have applied for and received permission to hold excess surplus balances.
4. There are two schools in deficit.

**Background / Discussion**

5. Overall school balances have increased by £108k (ie. 1.87% rise on 2011/12) meaning schools balances now equate to 4.9% of the annual Individual Schools Budget plus devolved revenue funding. The table below shows the summary position across sectors on a like for like basis.

	<u>Primary £</u>	<u>Secondary £</u>	<u>Special £</u>	<u>Total £</u>
2012/13	3,493,417	2,131,104	281,160	5,905,681
2011/12*	3,466,726	2,090,893	239,742	5,797,361
Increase/ (Decrease)	26,691	40,211	41,418	108,320

*\*Excludes Conyers Secondary School which converted to Academy status in 2012/13*

6. **Appendix 1** shows the monetary value of each schools outturn balance and the percentage it represents of schools budget in 2012/13.
7. Given the uncertainty regarding schools funding and the new funding reforms generally, this may have led to a more cautious approach to spending.
8. On prima facie evidence there are three secondary and seven primary schools holding excess surplus balances ie. with balances above the 5% and 8% thresholds respectively. This compares with 10 schools (7 primaries and 3 secondaries) holding balances above the thresholds at the end of 2011/12.
9. For 2012/13 all schools with surplus balances had applied for and received permission to hold excess surplus balances.
10. Colleagues will note that there are two schools (both primary) in deficit which compares to one school (one secondary school) in deficit at the end of the previous financial year. Both schools plan to repay the deficit in full in the current financial year.
11. **Appendix 2** shows the trend on the level of balance at each school from 2001/02 to 2012/13.

### **Recommendation**

12. The Schools Forum is asked to note and comment on the report.

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