

**Schools Forum  
3rd July 2018**

**Schools Budget & Balances 2017/18**

**Introduction**

1. This paper informs the Forum of the outturn position of the Schools Budget and provides an overview of the Maintained School Balances for the 2017-18 financial year.

**School Budget**

2. Appendix 1 shows the planned spend against the actual outturn for 2017/18 on the Schools Budget. Please note that these figures are all prior to any academy recoupmnt. Overall, there is a £1.413m deficit, compared with a £1.190m overspend reported for the period ending December 2017 and presented to the Schools Forum 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018. The reasons for significant variances between planned and actual spending for the full year are:-
  - a. *Line 1.2.1 Top-up funding maintained providers* – Overspend of £697k. Initial cost of the High Needs Enhanced Mainstream Provision relating to maintained schools (£284k). Plus additional cost of placements at Other LA Maintained Special Schools (£270k), overspend on the high needs contingency (£68k) and additional support to SBC and Hartlepool PRU's (£75k)
  - b. *Line 1.2.2 Top up funding academies and Out of Area* – The overspend of £958k relates to the continuing increased numbers of places and top-ups required for academies including out of area (£1.013m) and the estimated cost of the High Needs Enhanced Mainstream Provision (£88k). These have been offset by savings of (£143k) against our Post 16 budgets.
  - c. *Line 1.2.3 Top-up funding Independent Providers* - The under-spend of £734k relates to additional agency placements (£191k) unbudgeted costs of independent assessments and therapy sessions (£449k) and costs associated with early years top ups (£94k).
  - d. *1.2.5 SEN Support Services* - £97k overspend due to the increased costs for the Hearing Impaired and Visually Impaired support arrangement with Middlesbrough Council.
  - e. *1.4.10 Pupil growth / Infant class sizes* – Savings of (£313k) due to fewer schools meeting the criteria or requiring funding in year.

- f. *1.4.11 PRU Transport* - Overspend of £38k resulting from the increase in pupils requiring transport services to the PRU.
  - g. *1.7.2 Dedicated Schools Grant brought forward from 2016-17* - Actual savings of £479k brought forward from 2016/17. However, this included savings on Early Years funding which have been utilised to offset high needs and early years spend the current financial year.
3. Based on current census point numbers there has been surplus funding in year in relation to early years and the two year old offer totalling £301k. This is due to the actual pupil numbers on which payments have been made being lower than at the census dates on which funding is allocated.
  4. It is worth noting that taking High Needs in isolation there was a deficit of over £2.5m in this block
  5. The overall deficit of £1.413m has been carried forward into 2018/19.

### **School Balances**

6. Overall maintained school balances stand at £4.009m. This is an increase of £347k between 2016/17 and 2017/18. This means that overall maintained school balances have increased from 5.2% in 2016/17 to 6.44% at the end of 2017/18.
7. On prima facie evidence there are 14 primary and 1 Secondary schools holding excess surplus balances i.e. with balances above the 8% and 5% thresholds. This compares with 12 primary schools holding balances above the thresholds at the end of 2016/17. For 2017/18 from the 15 schools with excess surplus balances all 15 of these have requested permission to hold these.
8. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 only one school was carrying a deficit which compares to two in the previous year.

### **Recommendation**

9. The Schools Forum is asked to note the position for 2017-18

Andy Bryson  
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