

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Education and Skills

SCHOOLS FORUM

29 September 2016

School Balances as at 31 March 2016

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Schools Forum of the position regarding School Balances as at 31 March 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Schools Forum members are recommended to note the contents of the report and the attached Appendices.

BACKGROUND

A total of 149 out of 157 maintained schools submitted their return regarding the use of School Balances as at 31 March 2016. Of the 8 schools who had not submitted a return by 1 September 2016, 7 were under the 5% / 8% limit. Only one school, who was also under the limit, still had to submit relevant documentation.

No maintained school still open at 1 September 2016 was in breach of the limits, set out in the Scheme for Financing Schools, after commitments.

Overall School Balances have increased by 5.6%. But there are differences within the different phases:

- First/Primary Schools Balances have increased by £502k (11.6%)
- Middle Schools Balances have increased by £241k (24.7%)
- High/Secondary Schools Balances have decreased by £209k (18.2%)
- Special Schools Balances have decreased by £105k (8.6%)

The number of schools with a deficit closing balance has increased from 25 to 28 and the size of the overall deficits has increased by 59% from £737k to £1.172m. Again there are differences within the phases:

- First/Primary Schools Deficit balances decreased by £58k
- Middle Schools Deficit balances increased by £135k
- High/Secondary Schools Deficit balances increased by £336k
- Special Schools Deficit balances increased by £22k

The number of schools with a surplus closing balance has decreased from 132 to 129 and size of the overall surpluses has increased by 10% from £8.409m to £9.274m. The difference in the phases is below:

- First/Primary Schools Surplus balances increased by £444k
- Middle Schools Surplus balances increased by £376k
- High/Secondary Schools Surplus balances increased by £127k
- Special Schools Surplus balances decreased by £83k