



ISLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

Chair: Abi Misselbrook-Lovejoy
c/o Governor Services
222 Upper Street
London N1 1XR

SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING DATE	20 May 2021
AGENDA ITEM 4	Draft School Balances 2020-21
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>That Schools' Forum notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Islington's provisional schools' balances position b) Deficit schools and schools that have moved out of deficit c) That a further report will be presented to the July meeting of this Forum to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - earmarked revenue balances for capital purposes - identification of schools which may require review of their surplus balances - schools with deficit balances and actions being taken to achieve a deficit recovery - 3 year summary of LBI schools' balances - schools forecasting a deficit position for 2021-22

1 Schools' Balances

1.1 Following schools' financial closedown, the appended table of provisional schools' balances is presented which provides an initial financial summary of:

1.1.1 the overall level of schools' 2020-21 balances

1.1.2 2020-21 schools' balances compared to 2019-20 balances before deduction of earmarked balances for capital purposes

1.1.3 Individual School Budget (ISB) and balances as a percentage of the ISB

2 Initial Findings

2.1 Before deduction of earmarked capital balances, (to be presented to the next meeting) 2020-21 school balances total £9,458,688 compared to a balance of £10,274,842 in 2019-20, representing a decrease of £0.816m over 2020-21.

2.2 There are nine schools listed below that are in a deficit at year-end 2020-21.

- Drayton Park – Deficit is less than budgeted and the school are now working towards a new deficit recovery plan. School staffing costs alongside reduced pupil numbers are the main reasons for the deficit.
- Canonbury – staffing expenses more than budgeted, the school will now work on a deficit recovery plan
- Duncombe – Agency, SEN and essential works that were more than budgeted. The school are working towards a new deficit recovery plan for 2021-22.
- Grafton – significant loss of income due to covid-19, the school will now be working on a deficit recovery plan
- Highbury Quadrant – expected as per deficit recovery plan

- Prior Weston - decrease in deficit and is less than the budgeted original deficit recovery plan. The school are working towards a new deficit recovery plan.
- St Andrews - decrease to the original deficit recovery plan, the school are now working towards a revised deficit recovery plan.
- Winton – New deficit
- Beacon High - decrease in deficit and is less than the budgeted original deficit recovery plan. The school are working on a new deficit recovery plan for 21-22.

2.3 AMSI School have moved out of deficit.

3 The Schools' Balances Finalisation Process

3.1 Schools submitted year-end financial reconciliations in April. A final year-end summary position was recently provided to schools earlier this month in May, for final reconciliation to their accounting system and agreement of the year-end position.

3.2 Schools are required to submit their planned use of surplus balances for capital and other purposes before the end of May for inclusion in the final 2020-21 Schools Balances report to Schools Forum in July.

4 Recommendations

4.1 That Schools' Forum notes:

4.1.1 provisional 2020-21 schools' balances position

4.1.2 deficit schools and schools that have moved out of deficit

4.1.3 The differences between the ratified budget and draft YE positions has been added to draw attention to some of the significant differences. Whilst it is always expected that there will be some change it is recommended that schools interrogate their budgets before ratification to get them as realistic as possible.

4.1.4 that a further report will be presented to the July meeting of this Forum to include the following:

- earmarked revenue balances for capital purposes
- identification of schools which may require review of their surplus balances
- schools with deficit balances and actions being taken to achieve a deficit recovery
- 3 year summary of LBI schools' balances
- schools forecasting a deficit position for 2021-22
- schools ratified budgets 2021-22 including identifying schools with high balances and high in year deficits

Contact

Name: Sabrina Bryan
 Title: Schools Finance Service Manager
 Tel: 020 7527 5889
 Email: sabrina.bryan@Islington.gov.uk