



ISLINGTON SCHOOLS FORUM

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SCHOOLS FORUM

MEETING DATE	15 July 2021
AGENDA ITEM 4	School Balances 2020-2021
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>That Schools Forum notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Islington's schools' 2020-21 balances position b) Deficit schools and schools that have moved out of deficit c) Schools' earmarked revenue balances for capital purposes deducted from draft balances to obtain the final balances figure d) Schools above 10% or 15% of their Individual School Budget which may require review of their surplus balances e) Schools with deficit balances f) The decrease in schools' balances over 2019-20 g) Schools forecasting a deficit position for 2021-22 h) The DfE are increasingly looking at balances to determine future strategies

1 Schools' Balances

1.1 Following schools' financial closedown, provisional schools' balances was presented to the 21 May meeting of Schools Forum to provide an initial financial summary of:

- the overall level of schools' 2020-21 balances
- 2020-21 schools' balances compared to 2019-20 before deduction of earmarked balances for capital purposes
- Individual School Budget (ISB) and balances as a percentage of the ISB

1.2 Initial Findings **before** information was available on schools planned use of revenue balances earmarked for capital purposes were:

- 2020-21 school balances totalled £9,458,688 compared to a balance of £10,274,842 in 2019-20.
- This is a decrease of £0.816m over 2020-21.

There are 9 schools listed below that ended the 2020-21 financial year in a deficit position:

- Drayton Park – Deficit is less than budgeted and the school are now working towards a revised 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 are forecasting a balanced budget for 2021-22
- Duncombe – Agency, SEN and essential works that were more than budgeted. The school are working towards a revised 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 revised 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 revised deficit recovery plan for 21-22.
- AMSI School have moved out of deficit.

2 Findings Update

2.1 As at 1 July, 33 schools have submitted their planned use of surplus balances for capital and other purposes. Planned spend on capital information has been included in the attached updated 2020-21 Schools Balances report.

2.2 After deduction of planned spend for capital projects schools' balances are now £8,140,155

- This is a decrease of £1,592,152 over 2019-20
- Five schools' balances are over 10% of their Individual School Budget and ten schools over 15% as follows:

	School Balances 2020-21 £	Islington School Budgets 2020-21	After PUSB 2020-21 Balance s as a % of ISB	Schools balances 2020-21 over 10% or over 15%
Nursery				
Margaret McMillan Nursery School	443,686	724,589	61%	Over 15%
Primary				
Christ The King RC Primary School	213,463	1,908,390	11%	Over 10%
Montem Primary School	398,036	2,374,596	17%	Over 15%
Sacred Heart RC Primary School	376,934	2,531,459	15%	Over 15%
St John Evangelist RC Primary School	213,627	1,668,120	13%	Over 10%
St Josephs RC Primary School	633,688	2,237,428	28%	Over 15%
St Judes & St Pauls CofE Primary School	113,085	1,166,853	10%	Over 10%
St Marks CofE Primary School	248,016	1,324,586	19%	Over 15%
St Marys CofE Primary School	269,225	1,116,895	24%	Over 15%
St Peters & St Pauls RC Primary School	118,522	1,193,797	10%	Over 10%
Thornhill Primary School	437,906	2,379,826	16%	Over 15%
Secondary				
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson	1,271,489	6,909,893	18%	Over 15%
St Aloysius' College	1,643,121	6,772,350	19%	Over 15%
Special				
Richard Cloudesley PH School	461,027	1,709,503	27%	Over 15%
Samuel Rhodes MLD School	240,770	2,224,969	11%	Over 10%

2.3 Eight schools are forecasting a 2021-22 deficit budget. These are:

Schools	Forecast Deficit 21-22	LA Support
Kate Greenaway Nursery School	-64,408	
Drayton Park Primary School	-595,590	Schools' Finance and Project Group
Duncombe Primary School	-271,086	Schools' Finance and Project Group
Grafton Primary School	-372,895	
Highbury Quadrant Primary School	-122,516	Project Group and Schools Finance
Prior Weston Primary School	-356,448	Project Group and Schools Finance
St Andrews (Barnsbury) Church of England Primary School	-26,212	Schools' Finance and Project Group
Beacon High	-925,171	Project Group

2.4 Of these, six are supported through project groups and additional support from schools finance with the remaining two due to have project groups set up and have received some help from schools finance.

3 Recommendations

3.1 That Schools Forum notes:

- 2020-21 schools' balances position after deduction of earmarked revenue balances for capital purposes
- The overall decrease in schools' balances
- 2020-21 deficit schools and schools that have moved out of deficit in this period
- Schools forecasting a deficit position for 2021-22

3.2 That for schools with high balances, over 10%, meet with the Local Authority where they meet the following criteria:

- Consistently high balances exceeding 10% over a 3 year period
- Are not projecting a deficit balance in 2021-22

3.3 Schools meeting the criteria in 3.2 are;

- Margaret McMillan Nursery School
- Elizabeth Garrett Anderson
- St Aloysius' College
- Richard Cloudesley PH School

3.4 Deficit schools and planned action

- As per scheme, deficit schools are required to submit monthly monitoring including revised Deficit Recovery Plans(DRP) identifying potential risks to their plans. This must be received by Schools Finance within the first 10 days of each calendar month.
- Progress will be measured against DRP and reported to Corporate Finance.
- LA to work with deficit schools to ensure DRPs are realistic focusing on key aspects of their assumptions; pupil numbers and income projections.

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