

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY FINANCIAL SERVICES

TO:	Reading Schools Forum		
DATE:	14 May 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	5
TITLE:	School Balances (Provisional) at 31 st March 2015		
SERVICE:	Children, Education & Early Help Services	WARDS:	All
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1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Schools' Forum about the provisional school balances at the end of the financial year ended 31st March 2015. To seek guidance from Schools' Forum regarding schools that held excess surplus balances in the context of the balance control mechanism.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 (FOR NOTING) To note the contents of the report and also to note that the balances are at the moment provisional and subject to agreement with schools, as well as the external audit process.

2.2 (FOR ADVICE) To ask whether Schools Forum wish the Authority to ask the schools holding excess balances at Appendix 1 for details on the purpose for which this is held and also to provide an opinion as to whether this is a valid and proper reason, with the aim of bringing this information back to the July meeting for consideration.

3 POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council has strategic aims to establish Reading as a learning city and a stimulating and rewarding place to live and visit, to promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all. Education and the funding of education is a key factor in the achievement of this aim.

4 SCHOOL BALANCES

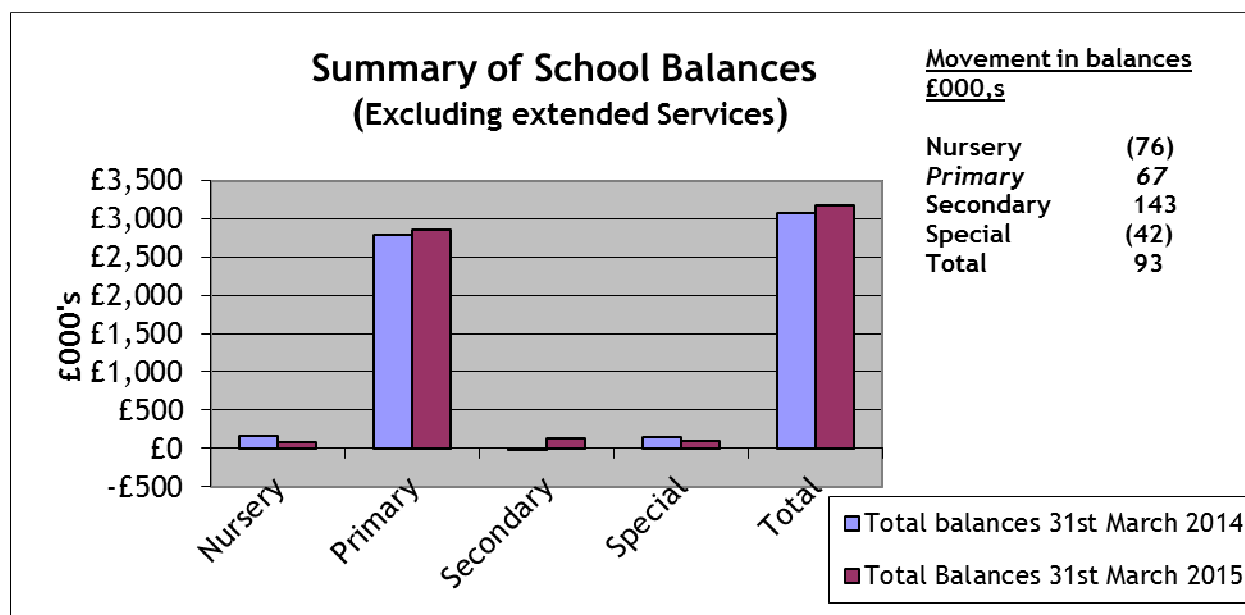
4.1 Background

4.1.1 This paper sets out the end of year school revenue balances at 31 March 2015 and the movement in those balances between March 2014 and March 2015. We are in the process of agreeing balances with schools. These are also subject to the audit process.

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 Graph 1 summarises school balances by school sector. Full details school by school are shown at **Appendix 1**.

Graph 1 Summary of school balances



4.2.2 There were 3 schools (from 5 at the 31st March 14) with a deficit balance as at the 31st March 2015: 1 primary school (from 2 at the 31st March 2014), one secondary school (unchanged from the 31st March 2014), no special schools (unchanged from the March 2014) and 1 nursery school (2 in 31st March 2014).

4.2.3 As seen in Appendix 1 a small number of schools had deficit balances as at 31st March 2015. We will continue to monitor these school's progress towards bringing their finances back into balance.

4.3 Balance Control Mechanism

4.3.1 Schools Forum now manages the LA's balance control mechanism. The schools' that held excess surplus balances as at 31st March 2015 can be identified from **Appendix 1**.

4.3.2 The excess balances could be held for properly assigned purposes. Each year the Authority asks whether Schools Forum would like us to request information from schools holding excess balances what these are being held for. In addition Schools Forum can request the authority to express an opinion as to whether these reasons are for a proper and valid purpose. If Schools Forum request the Authority to do this then this can be brought back for the July meeting of Schools Forum to consider.

4.3.3 It should be noted that for some schools balances may have been held for valid historical reasons (such as lease provisions).

4.4 Capital balances

4.4.1 The total amount of unspent devolved formula capital funds held by schools at the 31st March 2015 was £501k. Of this balance £220k had been carried forward from the 2012-13 allocation and will need to be spent by 31st August 2015. We will notify the schools holding these balances. The remainder of the balance consists of £114k of the 2013-14 allocation and £167k of the 2014-15 allocation. This information is also provided to colleagues across the Council to ensure that this is being factored into the future capital programme.

Appendix 1 Provisional School Balances 31st March 2014 and 31st March 2015

	2013-14		2014-15			
	Rev Balance (Excluding Extended schools)	% 13-14 c/f against 13- 14 budget share	Surplus / (Deficit) In- Year	Rev Balance (excluding extended schools)	% 14-15 c/f against 14- 15 budget share	Excess balance over threshold
Alfred Sutton Primary	82,852	4.35%	50,560	133,412	6.33%	0
All Saints Infant	76,039	22.22%	15,535	91,574	26.29%	63,706
Caversham Park Primary	50,005	6.36%	(16,126)	33,879	4.05%	0
Caversham Primary	52,807	3.33%	63,537	116,344	7.04%	0
Christ The King Catholic Primary	41,894	2.57%	17,240	59,133	3.41%	0
Coley Primary	49,030	5.18%	(21,938)	27,093	2.67%	0
Emmer Green Primary	(10,158)	(0.61%)	74,084	63,926	3.55%	0
English Martyrs' Catholic Primary	131,722	8.78%	66,056	197,778	11.89%	64,666
E P Collier Primary	30,127	3.34%	19,751	49,878	4.55%	0
Geoffrey Field Infant	80,657	6.76%	86,735	167,392	12.37%	59,145
Geoffrey Field Junior	77,783	5.82%	20,616	98,399	6.68%	0
Katesgrove Primary	427,965	19.26%	(233,399)	194,566	7.71%	0
Manor Primary	122,000	8.41%	15,688	137,688	8.29%	4,858
Micklands Primary	121,844	8.19%	54,900	176,744	10.76%	45,322
Moorlands Primary	144,147	7.06%	(32,137)	112,010	5.26%	0
New Town Primary	122,943	10.34%	7,605	130,548	10.45%	30,594
Oxford Road Community	104,781	8.83%	(47,309)	57,472	4.54%	0
Park Lane Primary	38,921	2.43%	24,871	63,792	3.76%	0
Ranikhet Primary	13,331	0.99%	60,199	73,529	4.94%	0
Redlands Primary	84,996	8.37%	10,862	95,858	8.76%	8,336
Southcote Primary	28,784	1.77%	14,440	43,224	2.38%	0
St Anne's Catholic Primary	(190,032)	(24.24%)	(131,244)	(321,276)	(38.91%)	0
St John's CofE (Aided) Primary	119,463	8.62%	18,752	138,214	9.06%	16,161
St Martin's Catholic Primary	53,537	9.24%	4,417	57,953	8.93%	6,047
St Mary and All Saints	185,306	10.74%	(49,020)	136,287	7.63%	0
St Michael's Primary	38,765	3.49%	28,897	67,662	5.37%	0
Thameside Primary	113,468	8.03%	(39,324)	74,144	4.87%	0
The Hill Primary	80,660	5.25%	(69,642)	11,018	0.65%	0
The Ridgeway Primary	141,729	12.58%	31,429	173,158	12.36%	61,078
Whitley Park Primary	154,394	5.48%	(28,181)	126,213	4.29%	0
Wilson Primary	126,020	8.60%	55,351	181,371	10.82%	47,266
New Christ Church	95,182	10.54%	(6,044)	89,138	9.35%	12,879
Blessed Hugh Faringdon	272,271	6.36%	(2,209)	270,062	5.98%	44,413
Reading Girls	(289,810)	(7.57%)	145,446	(144,364)	(4.02%)	0
Phoenix College	46,664	3.07%	25,432	72,096	5.21%	0
The Holy Brook	97,570	10.99%	(67,095)	30,475	3.39%	0
Blagdon Nursery	127,472	28.15%	(64,406)	63,066	15.42%	30,339
Blaggrave Nursery	19,814	7.95%	2,440	22,254	9.92%	4,304
Caversham Nursery	(28,984)	(12.99%)	(26,385)	(55,369)	(29.28%)	0
New Bridge Nursery	44,301	11.68%	327	44,629	12.05%	14,997
Norcot Early Years Centre	(4,783)	(1.26%)	12,469	7,687	1.98%	0
TOTAL	3,075,472		93,184	3,168,657		407,178