

West Berkshire Schools' Forum

Title of Report:	Update on Schools in Financial Difficulty 2014/15 (Maintained Schools)
Date of Meeting:	8th December 2014
Contact Officer(s)	Claire White
For Information	

1. Summary

1.1 The maintained schools that have set a deficit budget for 2014/15 are as follows:

	Actual Opening balance 01.04.14	Budgeted Closing balance 31.03.15
John O'Gaunt Secondary	-161,470	-535,450
Bradfield Primary	-1,230	-74,720
Kintbury Primary	50,716	-25,430

2. John O'Gaunt School

2.1 The school is currently reviewing its operational structure moving forward in order to significantly reduce its costs and have in place a deficit recovery plan. Governors have taken the decision to suspend the sixth form provision from September 2015 (there is no year 12 in the current academic year).

2.2 The school's financial position is being monitored by the Corporate Director for Communities, Head of Finance, and key Members of the Council.

3. Bradfield Primary School

3.1 Bradfield was successful in their bid for additional funding from the primary schools in financial difficulty contingency fund to cover their one off redundancy and compensation payments. They are now forecasting a balanced budget at the end of this financial year.

3.2 The school is still needing to make significant savings in order to continue to operate with a balanced budget moving forward, and schools accountancy are continuing to support them with their financial planning.

4. Kintbury Primary School

- 4.1 There has been a minor organisational change from September 2014 which has resulted in some savings. Due to the continuation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2015/16 (worth approximately £35k) the school is waiting to do further restructures as opportunities arise rather than incur redundancy costs.
- 4.2 The school should close the current financial year in balance. Schools accountancy continues to support the school with their financial planning.

5. 2015/16 Budgets

- 5.1 In preparing their 3 – 5 year budget forecasts last summer, a number of schools were showing going into deficit in 2015/16 if no action was taken and there was no staff turnover. All these schools have now been contacted by schools accountancy, and work has commenced with those schools that have requested support with their financial plans.