

West Berkshire Schools' Forum	
Title of Report:	School Balances as at 31 March 2015
Date of Meeting:	15th June 2015
Contact Officer(s)	Claire White
For Decision	

1. Introduction

1.1 The schools accounts for 2014/15 have now been closed and the closing balances for each school determined.

1.2 The following table summarises the overall revenue closing balances of West Berkshire Maintained schools compared to the previous year. A detailed breakdown per school is shown in Appendix A.

	As at 31 March 2014 £'000	As at 31 March 2015 £'000	Increase / (decrease) £'000	%
Nursery	76	74	(2)	-2.6
Primary	2,425	2,775	350	+14.4
Secondary	262	(191)	(453)	-172.9
Special	742	635	(107)	-14.4
PRUs	315	729	414	+131.4
Total	3,820	4,022	202	+5.3

1.3 Although overall balances have slightly increased, there has been a significant decrease in secondary school balances, mainly due to the increase in the deficit at John O' Gaunt School, and a significant increase in the balances held by the PRUs. The two special schools are still holding high balances, and primary school balances have surprisingly gone up.

2. Schools Closing in Deficit

2.1 Three schools budgeted a deficit in 2014/15 - John O' Gaunt, Bradfield, and Kintbury. Of these schools, only John O' Gaunt closed with a deficit. Bradfield benefitted from funding from the Schools in Financial Difficulty Fund and also reorganised and managed their budgets well. Kintbury did some restructuring but put other plans on hold (the original budget plan included redundancy costs). In addition to John O' Gaunt, eight other schools closed with a deficit at the end of 2014/15 (compared to four schools at the end of 2013/14 who all closed in surplus this year) – Birch Copse, Burghfield St Marys, John Rankin Infant, John Rankin Junior, Mortimer St Johns, Mrs Blands, St John the Evangelist, and Welford & Wickham.

2.2 The overall position at each of these schools as at 31 March 2015 compared to their previous year end balance and budget for 2014/15 are as follows (note that these figures are for the main school budget only and exclude, for example, unspent balances on pupil premium and sports grant which may bring them into an overall surplus):

	2013/14 Actual Balance £'000	2014/15 Budget £'000	2014/15 Actual Balance £'000	Actual compared to Budget £'000
John O'Gaunt	-161	-535	-605	-70
Bradfield	-1	-75	44	119
Kintbury	51	-25	27	52
Birch copse	102	17	-5	-22
Burghfield St Marys	2	1	-6	-7
John Rankin Infants	42	0	-10	-10
John Rankin Junior	21	0	-19	-19
Mortimer St Johns	11	0	-21	-21
Mrs Blands	38	12	-7	-19
St John the Evangelist	13	0	-18	-18
Welford and Wickham	10	9	-3	-12

2.3 The deficit at John O'Gaunt has continued to grow, and despite suspending year 12 from September 2014, the school still overspent by 13% compared to the deficit set at the beginning of the year. The school continues to be monitored by the Council's Management Board.

2.4 Although Kintbury avoided a deficit in 2014/15 and closed with a large surplus, the school has now set a budget with a small deficit in 2015/16 and is working on its longer term plan.

2.5 All the other schools listed above have planned to clear the deficit in 2015/16 and be back in surplus.

3. Schools Closing with an Excess Surplus

3.1 West Berkshire's current Balance Control Mechanism sets a maximum limit for balances on schools' delegated budgets of 8% primary and 5% secondary of the annual budget allocation or £20,000 (whichever is greater). Balances in excess of this limit may be clawed back. Three primary schools have closed with an apparent excess surplus (compared to three last year, none of whom have an excess balance this year). The three schools are Englefield, Inkpen and Lambourn.

3.2 Each school is required to complete a balance return, and if it has an excess surplus to provide an explanation and detailed information regarding use of

the balance. The returns from each school with an excess are attached in Appendix B.

3.3 Although outside the clawback scheme, it should also be noted that the PRUs also closed with significant surpluses, and their explanations are also included in Appendix B.

3.4 Schools should be commended on their continued ability during 2014/15 to monitor and control their budgets despite the continuing reduction in real term funding (i.e. no inflationary increases). At the close of the year there were no excessive/unexplained deficits or excess surpluses to cause significant concern, other than the continuing concerns at John O' Gaunt school.

For Decision: Schools' Forum to decide whether to accept each of the three school's explanations for and use of their excess balance, or to refer any to the next Heads Funding Group to hear from the school, review and make a recommendation back to the Schools' Forum.

Appendices

Appendix A – School Balances Summary as at 31 March 2015

Appendix B – Balance Control Returns from Schools with an Excess Surplus Balance

Appendix A

School Balances Summary (Net Revenue Balance only) Exclude Capital and Community Focused	Closing Balance 31/03/2014	Closing Balance 31/03/2015	Change in Balance	Budget Share 2015/16	Balance as % of Budget	Percentage Rate Allowed	Upper Threshold	Excess Balance	Less PPG & PE Grant c/f	Less Other c/f allowed	Final Excess Balance
NURSERY SCHOOLS											
Hungerford Nursery School Centre for Children and Families	24,974	21,723	-3,252	483,703	4.49%	10.00%	48,370	0	0		
Victoria Park Nursery School	50,788	52,372	1,584	530,241	9.88%	10.00%	53,024	0	0		
TOTAL NURSERY SCHOOLS	75,762	74,095	-1,667	1,013,944	7.31%			0	0	0	0
PRIMARY SCHOOLS											
Aldermaston Church of England Primary School	49,881	63,473	13,592	678,121	9.36%	8.00%	54,250	9,223	4,758	12,490	0
Basildon Church of England Primary School	18,238	22,725	4,487	557,919	4.07%	8.00%	44,634	0	7,964		
Beedon Church of England (Controlled) Primary School	2,795	14,646	11,851	284,335	5.15%	8.00%	22,747	0	3,008		
Beenham Primary School	-13,229	3,590	16,819	469,833	0.76%	8.00%	37,587	0	632		
Birch Copse Primary School	104,463	29,561	-74,902	1,432,582	2.06%	8.00%	114,607	0	34,892		
Bradfield Church of England Primary School	-1,061	46,306	47,367	570,805	8.11%	8.00%	45,664	641	2,012		0
Brightwalton Church of England Aided Primary School	21,994	28,745	6,750	445,729	6.45%	8.00%	35,658	0	3,301		
Brimpton Church of England Primary School	22,660	18,170	-4,490	280,316	6.48%	8.00%	22,425	0	473		
Bucklebury Church of England Primary School	-14,208	4,136	18,343	523,151	0.79%	8.00%	41,852	0	3,625		
Burghfield St Mary's Church of England Primary School	3,123	-848	-3,971	752,556	-0.11%	8.00%	60,204	0	4,829		
Calcot Schools Federation	121,424	189,329	67,905	2,017,219	9.39%	8.00%	161,378	27,952	11,185	43,500	0
Chieveley Primary School	2,405	693	-1,711	733,574	0.09%	8.00%	58,686	0	(220)		
Cold Ash St Mark's Church of England Primary School	52,459	50,549	-1,910	691,116	7.31%	8.00%	55,289	0	6,393		
Compton Church of England Primary School	17,953	18,908	955	686,365	2.75%	8.00%	54,909	0	270		
Curridge Primary School	10,032	11,451	1,419	444,873	2.57%	8.00%	35,590	0	1,549		
Dow nsway Primary School	58,827	60,893	2,066	797,525	7.64%	8.00%	63,802	0	12,606		
Enborne Church of England Primary School	11,516	5,216	-6,300	310,211	1.68%	8.00%	24,817	0	(1,908)		
Englefield Church of England Primary School	19,442	40,942	21,500	464,772	8.81%	8.00%	37,182	3,760	422		3,338
Falkland Primary School	110,033	127,017	16,984	1,515,156	8.38%	8.00%	121,212	5,804	8,253		0
Francis Baily Primary School	60,300	104,578	44,278	1,847,678	5.66%	8.00%	147,814	0	9,657		
Garland Junior School	27,071	53,174	26,103	806,551	6.59%	8.00%	64,524	0	21,922		
Hampstead Norreys Church of England Primary School	49,668	49,420	-248	441,163	11.20%	8.00%	35,293	14,127	18,153		0
Hermitage Primary School	29,647	51,514	21,867	716,014	7.19%	8.00%	57,281	0	6,856		
Hungerford Primary School	86,411	62,457	-23,954	1,502,264	4.16%	8.00%	120,181	0	31,216		
The Ittleslys' Primary School	-21,475	19,073	40,547	299,930	6.36%	8.00%	23,994	0	441		
Inkpen Primary School	24,521	46,375	21,854	351,974	13.18%	8.00%	28,558	18,217	3,081		15,136
John Rankin Infant and Nursery School	43,460	-9,777	-53,237	1,006,259	-0.97%	8.00%	80,501	0	46		
John Rankin Junior School	21,177	-11,377	-32,554	843,855	-1.35%	8.00%	67,508	0	7,493		
Kennet Valley Primary School	53,962	59,956	5,994	803,597	7.46%	8.00%	64,288	0	4,901		
Kintbury St Mary's Church of England Primary School	51,665	35,898	-15,767	620,060	5.79%	8.00%	49,605	0	8,985		
Lambourn Church of England Primary School	33,590	121,846	88,257	828,969	14.70%	8.00%	66,318	55,529	53,367		2,162
Long Lane Primary School	18,021	35,095	17,074	879,354	3.99%	8.00%	70,348	0	15,558		
Mortimer St John's Church of England School	14,054	-21,354	-35,409	663,989	-3.22%	8.00%	53,119	0	(238)		
Mortimer St Mary's CofE Junior School	55,356	57,488	2,132	815,432	7.05%	8.00%	65,235	0	5,304		
Mrs Bland's Infant School	39,133	5,988	-33,146	751,280	0.80%	8.00%	60,102	0	12,933		
Pangbourne Primary School	48,281	52,082	3,801	797,184	6.53%	8.00%	63,775	0	7,935		
Parsons Down Schools Federation	78,144	155,018	76,874	2,005,625	7.73%	8.00%	160,450	0	18,616		
Rurley Church of England Infant School	10,642	23,912	13,269	375,134	6.37%	8.00%	30,011	0	14,872		
Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery	65,128	89,405	24,277	905,224	9.88%	8.00%	72,418	16,987	16,725	1,350	0
Shaw -cum-Donnington Church of England Primary School	22,758	22,265	-493	470,749	4.73%	8.00%	37,660	0	2,595		
Chaddleshorth Shefford Federation Church of England Primary School	36,993	52,521	15,528	426,186	12.32%	8.00%	34,095	18,427	23,900		0
Speenhamland Primary School	79,953	118,367	38,414	1,190,718	9.94%	8.00%	95,257	23,110	28,026		0
Springfield Primary School	60,172	34,611	-25,562	1,104,627	3.13%	8.00%	88,370	0	2,340		
Spurcroft Primary School	47,651	25,383	-22,268	1,503,145	1.69%	8.00%	120,252	0	9,781		
St Finian's Catholic Primary School	24,108	48,052	23,944	745,588	6.44%	8.00%	59,647	0	(11,724)		
St John the Evangelist Church of England Infant and Nursery School	13,362	-17,758	-31,120	757,954	-2.34%	8.00%	60,636	0	0		
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	46,287	42,802	-3,485	772,191	5.54%	8.00%	61,775	0	5,742		
St Nicolas Church of England Junior School	63,438	20,380	-43,058	925,355	2.20%	8.00%	74,028	0	5,888		
St Paul's Catholic Primary School	82,193	116,866	34,673	1,168,287	10.00%	8.00%	93,463	23,403	23,774		0
Stockcross Church of England School	22,769	34,304	11,535	454,815	7.54%	8.00%	36,385	0	3,086		
Streatley Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	28,884	31,866	2,982	451,862	7.05%	8.00%	36,149	0	8,022		
Sulhamstead and Upton Nervet Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	23,804	42,673	18,869	438,902	9.72%	8.00%	35,112	7,561	8,970		0
Thatcham Park Church of England Primary School	74,266	51,606	-22,660	1,469,149	3.51%	8.00%	117,532	0	22,552		
Theale Church of England Primary School	72,994	81,806	8,812	1,313,358	6.23%	8.00%	105,069	0	(1,260)		
Welford and Wickham Church of England Primary School	10,567	-1,914	-12,480	418,996	-0.46%	8.00%	33,520	0	1,085		
Westwood Farm Infant School	71,693	58,290	-13,403	814,766	7.15%	8.00%	65,181	0	20,287		
Westwood Farm Junior School	90,114	65,450	-24,664	1,013,901	6.46%	8.00%	81,112	0	15,068		
The Willow s Primary School	29,735	41,720	11,984	1,283,554	3.25%	8.00%	102,684	0	3,467		
The Winchcombe School	105,380	140,523	35,143	1,636,745	8.59%	8.00%	130,940	9,583	13,257		0
Woolhampton Church of England Primary School	15,738	16,980	1,242	426,717	3.98%	8.00%	34,137	0	12,314		
Yattendon Church of England Primary School	15,247	32,070	16,823	377,098	8.50%	8.00%	30,168	1,902	2,081		0
TOTAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS	2,425,611	2,775,136	349,524	50,082,357	5.54%			236,226	561,118	57,340	20,637
SECONDARY SCHOOLS											
The Downs School	154,102	260,971	106,869	5,823,307	4.48%	5.00%	291,165	0	0		
John O'Gaunt Community Technology College	-113,024	-507,255	-394,231	2,298,847	-22.07%	5.00%	114,942	0	97,978		
Little Heath School	69,407	23,911	-45,497	7,834,337	0.31%	5.00%	391,717	0	5,872		
The Willink School	151,083	31,603	-119,480	4,934,166	0.64%	5.00%	246,708	0	8,615		
TOTAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS	261,568	-190,771	-452,338	20,890,657	-0.91%			0	112,465	0	0
SPECIAL SCHOOLS											
Brookfields Special School	556,603	346,214	-210,389	5,016,386	6.90%	10.00%	501,639	0	38,354		
The Castle School	185,945	288,799	102,854	3,367,511	8.58%	10.00%	336,751	0	41,135		
TOTAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS	742,548	635,013	-107,535	8,383,897	7.57%			0	79,488	0	0
PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS											
Alternative Curriculum	138,762	308,908	170,146	1,400,993	22.05%	10.00%	140,099	168,809	12,737		156,072
Reintegration Service	175,907	419,879	243,972	1,349,254	31.12%	10.00%	134,925	284,954	4,194		280,760
TOTAL PRUs	314,669	728,787	414,118	2,750,247	26.50%			453,763	16,931	0	436,832
TOTAL FOR ALL SCHOOLS	3,820,159	4,022,260	202,101	83,121,102	4.84%			689,989	770,001	57,340	457,469