

West Berkshire Schools' Forum

Title of Report:	Inkpen School – Excess Surplus Balance
Date of Meeting:	13th July 2015
Contact Officer(s)	Claire White
For Decision by Maintained School Representatives Only	

1.1 At the meeting of the Schools' Forum on 15th June 2015, the end of year balances for all schools were considered. Three schools had an excess surplus balance. At two of these schools the explanations of why the school had accumulated such a balance and the schools' planned use of the balance were deemed to be reasonable. The excess at each of these schools was also very small. For the third school, Inkpen, School Forum members did not think that the balance was explained well enough on their return and the excess surplus was high. They were also concerned that the school had previously had an excess surplus. The table below shows their recent balance history:

Year	Total Balance	Funding	% of Balance	Excess Surplus
2014/15	£46,375	£351,974	13.2%	£15,136
2013/14	£24,521	£380,834	6.4%	0
2012/13	£17,777	£336,041	5.3%	0
2011/12	£20,020	£335,431	6.0%	0
2010/11	£47,864	£352,626	13.6%	£19,654

1.2 Schools' Forum recommended that Inkpen be invited to the Heads Funding Group (HFG) to justify their excess surplus and explain why they are continuing to hold such a high contingency.

1.3 The Head teacher and School Business Manager from Inkpen attended the meeting of the HFG on 1st July 2015. The school provided detailed evidence of why they had accumulated a large surplus in the first place, and provided information and documentation on how some of this balance had since been spent and why they were holding the remaining balance.

1.4 HFG members asked a number of challenging questions and were satisfied with the evidence and explanations given by the school. They were unanimous that no further action should be taken and there should not be a claw back.

Recommendation: As the school's reasons for their excess balance are reasonable, no further action be taken.