

<b>West Berkshire Schools Forum</b>	
<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Update on Schools in Financial Difficulty</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> December 2013</b>
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	<b>Clare Warren</b>
<b>For Discussion</b>	

## 1. Background

In May 2013 3 schools budgeted a deficit:

Parsons Down Junior	£13,670
The Willows	£43,240
John O'Gaunt	£182,497

The Schools Finance Team has been working closely with these schools to support their recovery plans and monitor their progress as shown below.

The team are also closely monitoring and supporting a further 4 schools that are currently causing us financial concern.

## 2. Schools with deficits in current year 2013/14

**2.1 Parsons Down Junior:** The school have made a number of staffing changes and are currently forecasting an improved position from their budget and they are closely monitoring the position.

**2.2 The Willows:** The school is benefitting from a very strong growth in pupil numbers and on census day had 251 pupils compared to a budgeted 260 (last year was 193). They have subsequently gained a further 12 pupils as well as having a full nursery. Whilst they are receiving some additional monies for the in-year pupil number growth, there is continuing pressure on staff and curriculum costs from this growth e.g. 2 existing TAs are being moved to support 2 new pupils at the top end of their High Needs. They also have a significant level of English as an Additional Language needs. The school is currently forecasting to come in close to budget and they are closely monitoring the position.

**2.3 John O'Gaunt:** A proposal to make the school an all-through school has now been agreed by the Council's Executive and this will now go out to wider consultation. The school also have a new School Business Manager who will be supported by the School Finance Team during the budget process. The school is currently forecasting to come in close to budget and they are closely monitoring the position.

**2.4 Other schools:** As in previous years the School Finance Team will carry out a detailed review of schools at the end of December and will offer support to any other schools that they identify as being at risk of not meeting their budgets.

### **3. Potential School Deficits 2014/15**

18 schools budgeted a deficit for 2014/15. Those with a significant deficit are being contacted and support is being offered.

### **4. Contingency for Primary Schools in Financial Difficulty**

Primary schools have de-delegated formula funding for Schools in Financial Difficulty. This fund is £115,680. No applications to access this funding have been made to date.