

School Balances Update

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

- Note the progress on school visits to date and that robust plans have been/are being agreed, and funding returned (£1,225k to date) where it is no longer required.
- Note the next steps identified below around continued monitoring and use of returned funds.

1. Introduction/background

- 1.1. Further to the update provided to the February 2022 Forum; it was agreed that additional analysis was required around planned expenditure, including proposed building projects, and that site visits should be arranged with the 10 schools with the highest balances to confirm that plans are reasonable and realistic.

2. Site Visits

- 2.1. Commencing in March 2022, Mark Sheikh and Kim Wilson have visited/are visiting the following schools to discuss plans for spending their surplus balances, with the last meeting scheduled to take place on 1 July:
- Abbey Lane Primary
 - Ballifield Primary
 - Bankwood Primary
 - Bents Green Special School
 - Ecclesall Primary
 - King Edward VII Secondary
 - Prince Edwards Primary
 - The Rowan Special School
 - Seven Hills Special School
 - Stradbroke Primary
- 2.2. Progress to date has been positive with schools responding with robust spending plans to use surplus balance. School visits, review of spending plans and discussion with head teachers have led to an agreement: where part of their surplus will be returned as it is no longer required – a total of £1,225k has been agreed to date.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1. Upon completion of the site visits, to determine the final balance to be returned and agree on how the monies should be used to benefit the wider school sector.
- 3.2. Consider how any returned monies could be used to the benefit of all children in the city.
- 3.3. To then carry out site visits at other schools with surplus balances.
- 3.4. Continue with ongoing monitoring of spend and report back on progress to the September Schools Forum.

4. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

- **Note** the above progress around site visits and the level of funds agreed to be returned so far.