

## **Maintained Schools Balances at March 2021**

### **Key Message:**

Forum Members are asked to:

- Note the position on maintained school balances at 31 March 2021.

### **1. Introduction / background**

- 1.1. Following the completion of the 2020/21 year-end position, this report provides an update on school balances.

### **2. Position at 31 March 2021**

- 2.1. The following table shows a summary of the school balances over the past five years:

<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
£10,844,437	£7,912,120	£9,816,075	£10,504,288	£16,324,872

- 2.1. School balances have increased over the past five years largely due to a £5.8m increase in 2020/21 which is linked to the impact of Covid. £4.2m of balances have been transferred to academies over the past five years; just one school transferred in 2020/21.
- 2.2. There are 10 schools with a deficit balance at March 2021, totalling £2.3m. The Deficit Steering Group, with representatives from Strategy and Commissioning, Education and Skills, Finance and Commercial Services and Human Resources meets on a regular basis to review these schools and to ensure that they have a robust recovery plan to bring the school back into a break even position.
- 2.3. The remaining 68 schools have a surplus balance totalling £18.7m.

2.4. School balances have increased from 2019/20 to 2020/21; there are a number of reasons for this increase including: the schools in deficit have started to recover and have repaid balances, additional government funding for Covid to schools has meant that some schools have been able to replace some of the reserve funding that they have had to use in previous years.

### **3. Sheffield Scheme for Financing Schools**

3.1. The Sheffield Scheme for Financing Schools states that the total agreed deficits should not normally exceed 40% of schools' collective balances. At 31 March 2021, the total amount of agreed deficit balances was 17% of the total balance - within the agreed limit of the scheme.

### **4. Recommendations**

Forum Members are asked to note:

- The position on maintained school balances at 31 March 2021.