

Appendix 1

Do you agree with the proposal to amend the LA's Scheme for Funding Schools to withdraw the Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme and adopt a more holistic approach which consolidates the existing reporting regime in a year end statement to individual schools on the effectiveness of their monitoring, to be considered and ratified by the governing body?

	Phase	Yes	No	Comments
1	Primary	✓		Greater autonomy and self direction of schools enables creative thinking and long term planning to be considered
2	Primary	✓		Our response is a qualified "yes". Withdrawing the Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme would provide us with welcome flexibility at a time of severe budget restraints (specifically helping us to focus on maintaining appropriate staffing levels in the face of fluctuating numbers on roll). However, in the absence of detail about what controls might replace the scheme, it is difficult to endorse the proposed change whole-heartedly.
3	Primary	✓		The above proposal was discussed at the Finance and Premises Committee on 16 th January 2013. The Governors are happy with the proposal above but internally are considering setting a notional % rollover to be agreed by the Full Governing Body and for this % to be reviewed regularly.
4	Secondary		✓	Schools Forum is well placed to consider this option. They should be congratulated for supervising a systemic check on schools which remind Governing Bodies and Headteachers of the moral issue of spending funds generated for pupils while they are currently in school. Our view is that Wiltshire should continue to show strong leadership in this area and despite there being no statutory obligation to do so, retain the existing Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme in 2013/2014 and beyond. The Schools Forum has noted itself that this position had facilitated informed decision making and has ensured increased accountability by schools for the funds they are provided for the education of pupils by the Local Authority. The facts are that your analysis has shown that the level of surplus in Wiltshire maintained schools, whilst the scheme operated as currently, has reduced the total net revenue balances held by schools from £13.9m in 2008/09 to £8.76m in 2011/12. This is great news. We have no doubt this will, and should continue to drop further in current and future years, but only if the existing scheme is retained in Wiltshire.
5	Secondary	✓		Governors have agreed that they will also be monitoring balances closely to ensure that value for money is achieved

