

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

02 December 2010

CONTROLS ON SURPLUS BALANCES: 2009-10

Purpose of the paper

1. To update Schools Forum on the outcome of the Appeals Panel in respect of the removal of excess surpluses from schools relating to the 2009-10 financial year.

Background

2. At its meeting on 7 October 2010 Schools Forum recommended that the excess surplus balances of five schools should be clawed back, subject to appeal.

Outcome of the Appeals Panel

3. Appeals and explanations were received from all five schools and considered at a meeting of the Panel held on the 16 November 2010.
4. The Panel agreed that:
 - a. The excess balances of two schools should be clawed back in full;
 - b. That part of the excess balance should be clawed back from one school;
 - c. That the excess balance should not be clawed back from one school;
 - d. That a decision on one school's appeal be deferred pending the outcome of an exercise currently underway to determine the latest budgetary position of that school.
5. Appendix A sets out the basis of the Panel's decisions and the amounts to be clawed back.

Issue for consideration

6. The appeals process highlighted an issue regarding the application of the thresholds on schools of different sizes, specifically in the primary phase. The Panel questioned whether the 8% or £10,000 thresholds (which ever is the highest) were appropriate for very small schools. Officers agreed to investigate this and will report back to School's Funding Group at a late date.

Recommendation

7. Schools Forum is asked to note the contents of this report.

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