

Schools Funding Forum 12th June 2025

ITEM 5

Subject Heading:

LA maintained schools' balances 2024-25

Report Author:

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Finance Officer**

Eligibility to vote:

Representatives of LA maintained schools

SUMMARY

This report provides an analysis of the LA maintained school balances carried forward from 2024-25 into 2025-26.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Funding Forum notes the report.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Year on Year Comparison of School Balances

The table below shows the total balances carried forward each year for the 37 primary and one special school that were LA maintained at the end of financial year 2024-25. Two pairs of schools operate a single budget across their federations.

	Total income £m	Total c/fwd balance £m	Balance as a % of income
2024-25	133.6	-0.5	-0.4%
2023-24	122.5	1.8	1.5%
2022-23	110.8	3.9	3.5%
2021-22	106.4	4.5	4.3%
2020-21	101.4	4.7	4.7%
2019-20	96.3	2.3	2.3%

2. Total value of school surpluses and deficits

Year	Total surpluses £m	Total deficits £m	Net balances £m
2024-25	5.8	6.3	-0.5
2023-24	5.4	3.6	1.8
2022-23	5.3	1.4	3.9
2021-22	5.4	0.9	4.5
2020-21	5.8	1.1	4.7
2019-20	3.7	1.4	2.3

3. School with surplus - percentage banding

	No. above 15%	No. between 10% & 15%	No. between 5% & 10%	No. between 0% & 5%	No. in deficit
2024-25	1	5	7	10	15
2023-24	1	3	8	11	14
2022-23	1	3	11	7	15
2021-22	1	4	11	12	9
2020-21	1	4	15	7	11
2019-20	0	2	15	6	16

4. School in deficit – percentage banding

	No. above 10%	No. between 5% & 10%	No. between 1% & 5%	No. below 1%	Total No. in deficit
2024-25	10	3	2	0	15
2023-24	7	5	2	0	14
2022-23	0	6	8	1	15
2021-22	1	3	4	1	9
2020-21	1	4	4	2	11
2019-20	2	4	9	1	16

5. Schools in deficit - duration

No. of years	No. of schools in deficit	Previous year No. of schools in deficit
> 5	9	8
5	0	1
4	0	0
3	5	0
2	0	5
1	1	0
Total	15	14

6. Schools with balances above 10% - duration

No. of years	No. of schools above 10%	Previous year No. of schools above 10%
> 5	2	2
5	0	0
4	0	2
3	0	1
2	0	0
1	2	1
Total	4	6

The local authority will be in discussion with both LA maintained schools with balances above 10% and also those that are unable to set a balanced budget in 2025-26. Those schools with a deficit will have a Deficit Recovery Plan in place, and a licensed deficit will be issued to support those affected schools to overcome the adverse financial position over an agreed term.