

Schools Forum

6th December 2012

Balances Control Mechanism Policy 2012/13 - Update

This report is relevant to maintained schools

Recommendation

The Schools Forum is recommended to:

- Note the conclusions of the Schools Forum Sub Group to not claw back any funds from the March 2012 maintained school balances

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At the last Schools Forum meeting in October, a report was presented noting the school balances at the end of March 2012. A Sub Group was appointed to meet to discuss whether any of these funds should be clawed back, as per the amended Balances Control Mechanism Policy whereby only those over 12% were to be considered.

2.0 Feedback from the Sub Group

2.1 A meeting was held on 14th November to which the Sub Group either attended or fed their views. The 2011/12 balances of each school over the 12% threshold level were considered and the reasons for their under spend discussed in relation to the permitted carry forward criteria.

2.2 The conclusion of the group was that each of the schools had complied with the Balances Control Mechanism Policy and, as such, should not have funds clawed back.

2.3 However, the group requested that these schools provide the Local Authority with evidence at year end (March 2013) that the funding had been used in year as suggested it would. Whilst the Schools Forum also recommended at its last meeting that the Balances Control Mechanism Policy should no longer be applied, if, in the event that the Cabinet do not approve this recommendation, that where expenditure had not been incurred as stated, that it should be clawed back.

2.4 The report to the Cabinet on December 13th detailing the schools funding reforms will also include a recommendation that the Balances Control Mechanism Policy is frozen, in line with the deletion of such an approach by the Department for Education with academy schools.

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