

ITEM 6(ii)

MEETING	SCHOOLS BUDGET FORUM
DATE	4 March 2014
TITLE	School Balances Projection on 31/3/2014
PURPOSE	Raise awareness and discuss
RECOMMENDATION	Consider whole context of the discussion
REPORT BY	Dewi R Jones, Head of Education
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION	Cllr Sian Gwenllian

1. Background

1.1 Appendix 1 is presented that contains projection of total Gwynedd school balances on 31 March 2014.

2. Summary

2.1 It is suggested that the balances of all schools in Gwynedd may reduce by £200,000 (or above) by the end of the financial year 2013/14 to £3.539m, corresponding to 4.9% of schools financial allocation (this conclusion is based on the highest estimate of the Primary Schools range of balances)

2.2 It is suggested that a reduction may occur in number of schools with a financial deficit from 12 on 31 March 2013 to 7 (or fewer) on 31 March 2014.

3. Schools according to sector

3.1 Primary Schools balances projection range suggests that their balances may either remain around the same level as last year or increase up to £400,000 that would leave total balances of around £2.7m and therefore equivalent to 7.7%.

3.2 Projection for Secondary Schools suggests a possible reduction in balances by approximately £600,000 in comparison with last year that would leave total balances of approximately £0.8m and therefore correspond to 2.3%.

3.3 The projection for the two Special Schools suggests maximum balances of £30,000, and therefore equates to 1.4%.

4. Conclusions

4.1 As regards all schools in Gwynedd, a projected balances percentage of 4.9% is not unreasonably high as long as the schools are wholly aware why these balances are being kept.

4.2 Whilst giving detailed focus to a **sector** gives the impression that Primary Schools balances remain high and may further increase, school balances should be considered through scrutinizing the balances of **individual schools**.

4.3 Other reports included in the agenda of today's meeting have tried to tease out why some schools have high balances, and it is expected that the conclusions and recommendations will lead to some schools making better use of balances.