

School Delegated Budgets – Year End Balances Summary

	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023
TOTAL (DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS £'000s	7,266	15,205	11,124
Number of Primary schools in deficit	23	17	24
Number of Secondary schools in deficit	4	2	2
Number of Special schools in deficit	1	1	1

Financial Position 2020-21

- Overall schools' **Surplus** / Deficit 31.3.21 = **-£11,023,393** / £3,757,762
-£7,265,631 net surplus
- Total **Surplus** / Deficit for Primary 31.3.21 = **-£5,717,515** / £1,396,196
-£4,321,319 net surplus
- Number of primary schools in **surplus** / deficit at 31.3.21
73 Surplus / 23 Deficit
- Number of secondary / special schools in **surplus** / deficit at 31.3.21
9 Surplus / 5 Deficit

Financial Position 2021-22

- Overall schools' **Surplus** / Deficit 31.3.22 = **-£18,306,818** / £3,101,861
-£15,204,957 net surplus
- Total **Surplus** / Deficit for Primary 31.3.22 = **-£8,832,774** / £1,258,465
-£7,574,309 net surplus
- Number of primary schools in **surplus** / deficit at 31.3.22
78 Surplus / 17 Deficit
- Number of secondary / special schools in **surplus** / deficit at 31.3.22
11 Surplus / 3 Deficit

Financial Position 2022-23

- Overall schools' **Surplus** / Deficit 31.3.23 = **-£14,609,572** / £3,485,252
-£11,124,320 net surplus
- Total **Surplus** / Deficit for Primary 31.3.23 = **-£6,413,355** / £1,597,199
-£4,816,156 net surplus
- Number of primary schools in **surplus** / deficit at 31.3.23
71 Surplus / 24 Deficit
- Number of secondary / special schools in **surplus** / deficit at 31.3.23
10 Surplus / 3 Deficit

Impact of balance carried forward into 2023-24

Many school balances include significant additional grant funding released during the pandemic and which will continue to support them into 2023-24.

School budgets have significantly benefitted from the following factors:

- RRRS funding has continued in 2023-24 at the same level as 2022-23.

Increasing pressures on school budgets:

- Costs increasing in excess of inflation applied to budgets (school resources, equipment, supply cover etc)
- Impact of pandemic on pupil behaviour
- Impact of Pandemic on supporting pupils with Additional Learning Needs
- Staff absence has resulted in significant expenditure on Agency Staff

Cumulative deficit balances in future years remain a concern and a significant risk to the authority. Work continues on reducing the cumulative deficits. However, it is recognised that some schools' deficits can no longer be recovered, implications of such situations will be considered as part of wider strategic planning of schools.

The receipt of grants received by schools during 2020-21 and 2021-22 has resulted in surpluses for many schools, however, during 2023-24 it is expected that the impact of these grant will have been eroded.

The impact of rising costs, particularly energy costs and pay awards should be monitored carefully by Governing Bodies and factored into their budget plans. It is important that all schools focus on their in-year budget position to limit any increase in deficits.

It is essential that all Governing Bodies work with Schools Service, HR and Finance officers to take action to provide an appropriate curriculum that can be delivered within the funding provided.

Further action will be considered where Governing Bodies do not proactively work with the Authority to address their budget position.