

## North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

### Agenda Item 4

#### School's Quarter 1 Monitoring 2023-24

## 1 Background

1.1 To inform schools forum of the current year's budget position based on the first quarter representing April 2023 to June 2023 and consequently the anticipated year end balances forecast.

## 2 Main report section or sections

2.1 North Northamptonshire Council's Scheme for Financing Schools, which follows national guidelines, requires that schools submit regular budget monitoring returns. This was agreed in January 2023 school forum, in order to report on the Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools on a monthly basis to the Executive, North Northamptonshire Council requires timely receipt of school financial information on a monthly basis. This will enable the council to accurately capture the financial information of schools on its ledger and maintain an up-to-date financial position of each school.

2.2 In late May 2023, NNC received budget plans from all 39 maintained establishments, except for Pen Green Nursery.

2.3 Table 1 outlines the Income & Expenditure up to Q1; however, schools forum needs to take note that the Q1 forecast has limitations due to an impending pay award for support staff and teachers. The Q1 forecast is entirely derived from the budget plans received up to the current date. The plan is to present a more comprehensive and robust forecast for Q2 submission, which is due by Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> to Schools Forum at the December meeting.

**Table 1 – School Quarter 1 Monitoring**

DFE Number	School Name	School type	Opening Revenue Balance 2023/24	Quarter 1 Income	Quarter 1 Expenditure	Variance based on Q1	23/24 In year School Forecast outturn based on Q1	23/24 Cumulative School Forecast outturn based on budget plan
1000	Ronald Tree Nursery School	Nursery	-£60,802	-£178,800	£165,213	-£13,587	£21,756	-£39,046
1001	Croyland Early Years Centre	Nursery	£75,357	-£151,375	£256,860	£105,485	-£43,892	£75,156
1003	Highfield Nursery School	Nursery	£3,432	-£134,414	£141,877	£7,463	£13,699	£3,432
1011	Pen Green Centre	Nursery	-£206,039	-£59,534	£610,341	£550,806	No Submission	No Submission
	<b>Total Maintained Nursery Schools</b>		<b>-£188,052</b>	<b>-£524,123</b>	<b>£1,174,291</b>	<b>£650,168</b>	<b>-£8,437</b>	<b>£39,542</b>
2007	Broughton Primary	Primary	-£144,534	-£459,561	£265,812	-£193,749	£15,459	-£52,705
2019	Corby Old Village Primary School	Primary	-£148,987	-£462,286	£303,582	-£158,703	£77,137	-£40,884
2029	Mawsley Community Primary School	Primary	-£89,722	-£698,898	£439,707	-£259,192	£0	-£89,724
2041	Great Doddington Primary	Primary	-£148,516	-£317,550	£219,997	-£97,552	£44,124	-£39,330
2048	HIGHAM FERRERS JUNIOR SCHOOL	Primary	-£240,862	-£707,080	£501,067	-£206,013	£0	-£179,356
2072	Nassington School	Primary	-£164,528	-£227,161	£135,819	-£91,342	£47,208	-£103,203
2082	NCC Alfred Lord Tennyson	Primary	£101,611	-£241,250	£167,050	-£74,200	£38,989	£120,000
2086	South End Infant School	Primary	-£54,944	-£612,567	£366,218	-£246,350	-£44,568	-£44,568

2087	Tennyson Road Infant School	Primary	-£29,527	-£204,527	£156,197	-£48,329	£85,968	£56,296
2091	Warmington School	Primary	-£127,800	-£237,037	£144,358	-£92,678	£3,882	-£56,385
2100	The Avenue Infant School	Primary	-£144,706	-£449,785	£280,037	-£169,748	£60,463	-£15,379
2130	South End Junior School	Primary	-£244,642	-£669,420	£489,872	-£179,548	£185,143	-£89,079
2140	HIGHAM FERRERS INFANT SCHOOL	Primary	-£223,220	-£547,781	£379,477	-£168,304	£62,834	-£138,715
2144	Meadowside Primary School	Primary	£99,489	-£774,665	£562,875	-£211,790	-£18,975	£101,714
2145	EARLS BARTON PRIMARY SCH	Primary	£9,360	-£989,948	£695,753	-£294,195	-£19,822	£0
2155	Whitefriars Primary School	Primary	-£436,937	-£858,826	£480,898	-£377,929	-£1	-£98,956
2180	Hayfield Cross School	Primary	-£228,623	-£803,647	£459,560	-£344,087	£0	-£186,469
2206	NCC Denfield Park Primary	Primary	-£39,945	-£927,510	£675,038	-£252,472	£0	-£39,946
2217	Barton Seagrave County Primary	Primary	-£363,670	-£1,237,540	£822,085	-£415,455	£147,839	-£215,829
2230	Henry Chichele Primary	Primary	-£135,237	-£840,504	£549,964	-£290,540	£70,892	-£28,351
2231	Croyland Primary School	Primary	£15,621	-£1,060,095	£698,978	-£361,117	-£48,204	£0
3030	Geddington C of E Primary	Primary	-£103,661	-£399,361	£271,627	-£127,734	£33,602	-£53,240
3033	Grendon CE Primary	Primary	-£66,501	-£265,095	£175,145	-£89,950	£0	-£66,502
3066	TITCHMARSH C of E PRIMARY	Primary	-£145,100	-£276,485	£197,822	-£78,663	£5	-£75,638
3070	All Saints CE Primary School	Primary	-£78,292	-£454,104	£288,771	-£165,333	£0	-£69,843
3200	Brigstock Lathams CE Primary School	Primary	-£20,663	-£244,706	£153,937	-£90,769	£0	£0
3201	KINGS CLIFFE ENDOWED SCHOOL	Primary	-£147,772	-£438,042	£289,964	-£148,078	£0	-£116,750
3345	Wilby CE (VA) Primary	Primary	-£7,468	-£230,643	£163,400	-£67,243	£1,467	-£2,999
3406	St Patricks RC Primary	Primary	-£39,064	-£461,016	£308,932	-£152,084	-£27,440	-£52,793
3514	Little Stanion Primary School	Primary	-£62,355	-£496,595	£326,836	-£169,759	£49,348	-£3,137
5206	Millbrook Infant School	Primary	-£199,379	-£597,492	£357,577	-£239,915	£125,148	-£19,191
5207	Millbrook Junior School	Primary	-£157,899	-£803,348	£626,645	-£176,703	-£6,401	-£164,300
5209	THRAPSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL	Primary	-£123,891	-£1,027,607	£700,014	-£327,592	£73,661	-£8,591
5210	Stanion CE Primary School	Primary	-£83,675	-£234,646	£146,556	-£88,091	£0	-£60,950
	<b>Total Maintained Primary Schools</b>		<b>-£3,976,041</b>	<b>-£19,256,775</b>	<b>£12,801,570</b>	<b>-£6,455,205</b>	<b>£879,780</b>	<b>-£1,834,803</b>
4055	The Latimer Arts College	Secondary	-£1,083,818	-£2,641,245	£1,768,474	-£872,771	£57,035	-£516,336
	<b>Total Maintained Secondary School</b>		<b>-£1,083,818</b>	<b>-£2,641,245</b>	<b>£1,768,474</b>	<b>-£872,771</b>	<b>£57,035</b>	<b>-£516,336</b>
7031	Rowan Gate Primary School	Special	-£432,906	-£2,127,527	£1,515,267	-£612,260	£86,841	-£315,739
	<b>Total Maintained Special School</b>		<b>-£432,906</b>	<b>-£2,127,527</b>	<b>£1,515,267</b>	<b>-£612,260</b>	<b>£86,841</b>	<b>-£315,739</b>
	<b>Total Maintained Schools</b>		<b>-£5,680,817</b>	<b>-£24,549,671</b>	<b>£17,259,602</b>	<b>-£7,290,069</b>	<b>£1,015,219</b>	<b>-£2,627,336</b>

\* Note: -ve is income or surplus +ve is expenditure or deficit

\* The green cells are derived from the data within NNC's ERP system, while the yellow cells reflect the forecasts provided by the schools to NNC.

2.4 Alfred Lord Tennyson currently faces a financial deficit, a challenge that stems from the previous Governing body's strategy to tackle the declining enrolment issue. In its ongoing commitment to address this matter, the school expanded its age range in order to resolve the issue. The new Governing body has opted to organise single year groups across two sites, resulting in a current enrolment of only 128 pupils. A request has been made by the LA for the school to submit a licensed deficit application.

2.5 Croyland Nursery and Highfield Nursery are part of a federation, aligning with two nurseries in the West. These establishments collectively share a Headteacher and a Strategic School Business Manager. While licensed deficit paperwork has been duly issued and monitored, it has now been forwarded to the Strategic School Business Manager for further attention. Highfield Nursery has navigated a deficit over several years, and there are ongoing efforts to mitigate this, with the optimistic expectation of achieving a balanced budget in the coming year, contingent upon

budgetary considerations. Conversely, Croyland, which previously maintained a positive carry forward, is currently has an overspend on staffing.

- 2.6 Meadowside is experiencing a deficit primarily attributable to the £1925 support staff pay award in 22/23, the school is currently addressing this financial challenge. The school has entered a federation with Great Doddington, and they jointly manage various costs, including the Headteacher's role. According to the latest three-year plan, the collaborative efforts are expected to facilitate the recovery of the deficit within this period. A request for licensed deficit has been submitted by the school.
- 2.7 Tennyson Road Infant School ceased operations as of August 31, 2023, following its amalgamation with Alfred Street Junior.

### **3 Recommendations for Schools Forum**

- 3.1 Schools forum is asked to note the current year's budget position based on the first quarter. Effective budget monitoring is a key tool in financial management and helps ensure strong governance and integrity. It can also help ensure that robust procedures are in place to control finances.

### **4 Next steps**

- 4.1 The Q2 schools monitoring report will be brought to the December schools forum.

### **5 Financial implications**

- 5.1 Paragraph 2.24 Notice of concern in North Northamptonshire's Scheme for Financing Schools states:

The LA may issue a notice of concern to the governing body of any school it maintains where, in the opinion of the NNC Chief Finance Officer and the Director responsible for Children's Services, the school has failed to comply with any provisions of the scheme, or where actions need to be taken to safeguard the financial position of the local authority or the school.

Such a notice will set out the reasons and evidence for it being made and may place on the governing body restrictions, limitations, or prohibitions in relation to the management of funds delegated to it

### **6 Legal implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

### **7. Risks**

- 7.1 If financial difficulties at schools are not identified and addressed in a timely manner, there is a significant risk that an increasing number of schools may not receive the necessary support. Early intervention by the local authority could help to mitigate this risk by allowing for proactive management of these situations. It is important for the local authority to be able to identify and address financial challenges at schools as soon as possible in order to provide the necessary support and prevent the situation from worsening.

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