

North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14th December 2023

Agenda Item 3

School's Quarter 2 Monitoring 2023-24

1 Background

- 1.1 To inform schools forum of the current year's budget position based on the second quarter representing April 2023 to September 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 Q2; however, schools forum needs to take note that the Q2 forecast has limitations due to an impending pay award for support staff and teachers.

Table 2 – School Quarter 2 Monitoring

DFE Number	School Name	School Type	Opening Revenue Balance 2023/24	Quarter 2 Income	Pay	Premises	Supplies and Services	Quarter 2 Expenditure	In year Variance based on Q2	Forecast In Year variance including balances brought forward	23/24 Year end forecast as of September submitted by School
1000	Ronald Tree Nursery School	Nursery	-£60,802	-£283,496	£289,254	£19,283	£24,898	£333,434	£49,939	-£10,863	-£111,711
1001	Croyland Early Years Centre	Nursery	£75,357	-£364,962	£450,599	£99,728	£40,669	£590,997	£226,035	£301,392	£76,143
1003	Highfield Nursery School	Nursery	£3,432	-£176,260	£201,902	£31,416	£47,031	£280,348	£104,088	£107,520	£40,040
1011	Pen Green Centre	Nursery	-£206,039	-£59,534	£1,181,486	£8,415	£4,766	£1,194,667	£1,135,133	£929,094	No Submission
	Total Maintained Nursery Schools		-£188,052	-£884,252	£2,123,241	£158,842	£117,363	£2,399,447	£1,515,195	£1,327,143	£4,472
2007	Broughton Primary	Primary	-£144,534	-£629,481	£413,580	£24,214	£78,407	£516,201	-£113,279	-£257,814	-£54,703
2019	Corby Old Village Primary School	Primary	-£148,987	-£658,144	£489,885	£14,551	£100,495	£604,931	-£53,212	-£202,199	-£80,003
2029	Mawsley Community Primary School	Primary	-£89,722	-£1,053,008	£670,195	£85,520	£228,472	£984,187	-£68,821	-£158,543	-£83,466
2041	Great Doddington Primary	Primary	-£148,516	-£459,400	£297,285	£52,000	£111,676	£460,961	£1,562	-£146,955	-£7,870
2048	HIGHAM FERRERS JUNIOR SCHOOL	Primary	-£240,862	-£901,812	£714,407	£49,512	£163,401	£927,320	£25,509	-£215,353	-£184,021
2072	Nassington School	Primary	-£164,528	-£314,012	£197,507	£37,357	£65,398	£300,263	-£13,749	-£178,277	-£120,797
2082	NCC Alfred Street Junior School	Primary	£101,611	-£335,487	£280,136	£85,674	£71,348	£437,158	£101,671	£203,281	£135,683
2086	South End Infant School	Primary	-£54,944	-£825,779	£557,707	£31,397	£126,203	£715,308	-£110,470	-£165,415	-£121,460
2091	Warmington School	Primary	-£127,800	-£330,604	£204,106	£28,233	£67,429	£299,768	-£30,836	-£158,636	-£128,037
2100	The Avenue Infant School	Primary	-£144,706	-£626,396	£375,608	£31,757	£61,592	£468,957	-£157,438	-£302,144	IT ISSUES
2130	South End Junior School	Primary	-£244,642	-£940,555	£743,717	£48,345	£115,309	£907,370	-£33,184	-£277,826	-£123,994

2140	HIGHAM FERRERS INFANT SCHOOL	Primary	-£223,220	-£725,419	£606,834	£32,016	£79,209	£718,059	-£7,360	-£230,580	-£117,529
2144	Meadowside Primary School	Primary	£99,489	-£1,123,126	£928,353	£57,144	£142,315	£1,127,812	£4,686	£104,175	£62,233
2145	EARLS BARTON PRIMARY SCH	Primary	£9,360	-£1,354,548	£1,016,975	£102,534	£166,533	£1,286,041	-£68,507	-£59,146	-£45,803
2155	Whitefriars Primary School	Primary	-£436,937	-£1,191,389	£832,154	£33,505	£113,454	£979,114	-£212,275	-£649,212	-£238,752
2180	Hayfield Cross School	Primary	-£228,623	-£1,125,914	£777,006	£43,175	£120,328	£940,510	-£185,404	-£414,027	-£306,672
2206	NCC Denfield Park Primary	Primary	-£39,945	-£1,257,693	£1,012,318	£117,734	£137,289	£1,267,340	£9,647	-£30,298	-£36,966
2217	Barton Seagrave County Primary	Primary	-£363,670	-£1,744,342	£1,296,732	£80,074	£228,302	£1,605,108	-£139,234	-£502,904	-£352,729
2230	Henry Chichele Primary	Primary	-£135,237	-£1,175,913	£840,552	£95,155	£143,640	£1,079,347	-£96,566	-£231,803	IT ISSUES
2231	Croyland Primary School	Primary	£15,621	-£1,545,790	£1,181,008	£71,435	£138,196	£1,390,638	-£155,152	-£139,531	-£29,724
3030	Geddington C of E Primary	Primary	-£103,661	-£562,456	£405,024	£29,557	£71,411	£505,992	-£56,464	-£160,125	-£66,741
3033	Grendon CE Primary	Primary	-£66,501	-£365,244	£264,278	£19,790	£46,024	£330,092	-£35,152	-£101,653	-£80,810
3066	TITCHMARSH C of E PRIMARY	Primary	-£145,100	-£386,605	£266,212	£45,713	£58,453	£370,377	-£16,228	-£161,328	-£110,427
3070	All Saints CE Primary School	Primary	-£78,292	-£635,742	£403,237	£47,813	£99,470	£550,520	-£85,222	-£163,513	-£106,688
3200	Brigstock Lathams CE Primary School	Primary	-£20,663	-£340,522	£249,230	£28,011	£63,058	£340,299	-£222	-£20,886	£55,355
3201	KINGS CLIFFE ENDOWED SCHOOL	Primary	-£147,772	-£600,624	£411,771	£49,183	£92,694	£553,648	-£46,975	-£194,747	-£118,000
3345	Wilby CE (VA) Primary	Primary	-£7,468	-£318,139	£240,165	£10,872	£38,224	£289,261	-£28,878	-£36,346	-£36,704
3406	St Patricks RC Primary	Primary	-£39,064	-£642,510	£491,023	£46,508	£74,291	£611,822	-£30,687	-£69,752	-£58,201
3514	Little Stanion Primary School	Primary	-£62,355	-£683,296	£529,220	£50,144	£94,232	£673,596	-£9,701	-£72,056	-£41,438
5206	Millbrook Infant School	Primary	-£199,379	-£820,038	£605,109	£34,903	£64,486	£704,498	-£115,540	-£314,919	-£151,907
5207	Millbrook Junior School	Primary	-£157,899	-£1,147,663	£966,610	£67,460	£167,665	£1,201,735	£54,072	-£103,827	-£179,400
5210	Stanion CE Primary School	Primary	-£83,675	-£324,267	£231,569	£17,078	£37,237	£285,883	-£38,384	-£122,059	-£28,426
	Total Maintained Primary Schools		-£3,822,622	-£25,145,915	£18,499,515	£1,568,364	£3,366,240	£23,434,120	-£1,711,795	-£5,534,418	-£2,757,997
4055	The Latimer Arts College	Secondary	-£1,083,818	-£3,696,136	£2,847,389	£280,877	£373,362	£3,501,627	-£194,509	-£1,278,327	-£968,114
	Total Maintained Secondary School		-£1,083,818	-£3,696,136	£2,847,389	£280,877	£373,362	£3,501,627	-£194,509	-£1,278,327	-£968,114
7031	Rowan Gate Primary School	Special	-£432,906	-£3,517,008	£2,657,185	£199,170	£259,107	£3,115,462	-£401,547	-£834,453	-£259,553
	Total Maintained Special School		-£432,906	-£3,517,008	£2,657,185	£199,170	£259,107	£3,115,462	-£401,547	-£834,453	-£259,553
	Total Maintained Schools		-£5,527,399	-£33,243,312	£26,127,330	£2,207,254	£4,116,072	£32,450,656	-£792,656	-£6,320,055	-£3,981,192

* 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 A further request has been made by AD Education to request formal licensed deficit from the schools mentioned above.

3 Recommendations for Schools Forum

- 3.1 Schools forum is asked to note the current year's budget position based on the second 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 Q3 schools monitoring report will be brought to the January 24 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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