

North Northamptonshire Schools Forum: 14th March 2024

Agenda Item 4

School's Period 10 Monitoring 2023-24

1 Background

- 1.1 This report informs schools forum of the current year's budget position based on the third quarter representing April 2023 to January 2024 and consequently the anticipated year end balances forecast.

2 Schools' Monitoring

- 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, to report the Dedicated Schools Grant including schools monthly to North Northamptonshire Council's Executive which requires timely receipt of school financial information monthly. 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 Schools' Income & Expenditure up to Period 10.

Table 2 – School P10 Monitoring

DFE Number	School Name	School Type	Opening Revenue Balance 2023/24	P10 Income	Pay	Premises	Supplies and Services	P10 Expenditure	In year Variance based on P10	In Year 2023/24 Variances including balance brought forward	23/24 Year end forecast as of January submitted by School
1000	Ronald Tree Nursery School	Nursery	-£60,802	-£532,996	£515,537	£28,995	£39,888	£584,419	£51,424	-£9,378	-£79,394
1001	Croyland Early Years Centre	Nursery	£75,357	-£838,889	£819,121	£180,307	£68,361	£1,067,790	£228,901	£304,258	£198,323
1003	Highfield Nursery School	Nursery	£3,432	-£429,152	£347,709	£41,693	£154,451	£543,852	£114,700	£118,133	£70,563
1011	Pen Green Centre	Nursery	-£206,039	-£30,830	£2,057,765	£7,857	-£6,994	£2,058,629	£2,027,798	£1,821,759	No Submission
	Total Maintained Nursery Schools		-£188,052	-£1,831,867	£3,740,132	£258,852	£255,706	£4,254,690	£2,422,823	£2,234,771	£189,492
2007	Broughton Primary	Primary	-£144,534	-£1,030,287	£745,953	£45,098	£119,116	£910,167	-£120,120	-£264,655	-£122,206
2019	Corby Old Village Primary School	Primary	-£148,987	-£1,083,110	£864,171	£37,846	£162,431	£1,064,449	-£18,661	-£167,648	-£150,017
2029	Mawsley Community Primary School	Primary	-£89,722	-£1,680,283	£1,200,321	£123,951	£305,691	£1,629,964	-£50,319	-£140,041	-£78,614
2041	Great Doddington Primary	Primary	-£148,516	-£807,096	£526,847	£117,598	£242,000	£886,446	£79,350	-£69,166	£38,756
2048	HIGHAM FERRERS JUNIOR SCHOOL	Primary	-£240,862	-£1,650,757	£1,264,510	£76,707	£249,207	£1,590,423	-£60,333	-£301,195	-£169,435
2072	Nassington School	Primary	-£164,528	-£527,994	£355,576	£56,929	£114,974	£527,479	-£516	-£165,044	-£123,653
2082	Lord Alfred Tennyson	Primary	£101,611	-£1,018,039	£624,021	£256,182	£103,064	£983,267	-£34,772	£66,838	£100,000
2086	South End Infant School	Primary	-£54,944	-£1,333,361	£1,001,866	£61,158	£198,033	£1,261,058	-£72,303	-£127,247	-£80,074
2091	Warmington School	Primary	-£127,800	-£567,105	£352,838	£42,172	£120,322	£515,333	-£51,772	-£179,572	-£66,565
2100	The Avenue Infant School	Primary	-£144,706	-£1,052,287	£801,337	£63,154	£125,861	£990,352	-£61,936	-£206,641	-£143,862

2130	South End Junior School	Primary	-£244,642	-£1,579,610	£1,273,113	£85,789	£232,395	£1,591,297	£11,687	-£232,955	-£128,014
2140	HIGHAM FERRERS INFANT SCHOOL	Primary	-£223,220	-£1,214,801	£1,067,296	£52,740	£132,321	£1,252,357	£37,556	-£185,664	-£120,390
2144	Meadowside Primary School	Primary	£99,489	-£1,838,089	£1,665,202	£102,217	£243,055	£2,010,473	£172,384	£271,873	£137,569
2145	EARLS BARTON PRIMARY SCH	Primary	£9,360	-£2,197,633	£1,762,641	£140,194	£246,064	£2,148,898	-£48,734	-£39,374	-£2,381
2155	Whitefriars Primary School	Primary	-£436,937	-£1,955,247	£1,479,198	£80,810	£219,016	£1,779,023	-£176,224	-£613,160	-£197,512
2180	Hayfield Cross School	Primary	-£228,623	-£1,828,289	£1,366,017	£76,889	£232,339	£1,675,245	-£153,044	-£381,667	-£239,662
2206	NCC Denfield Park Primary	Primary	-£39,945	-£2,148,771	£1,767,968	£186,307	£220,852	£2,175,127	£26,356	-£13,589	£58,842
2217	Barton Seagrave County Primary	Primary	-£363,670	-£2,833,794	£2,296,534	£133,680	£370,655	£2,800,870	-£32,924	-£396,594	-£309,132
2230	Henry Chichele Primary	Primary	-£135,237	-£1,897,961	£1,467,072	£167,988	£228,665	£1,863,724	-£34,237	-£169,475	-£50,230
2231	Croyland Primary School	Primary	£15,621	-£2,472,451	£2,034,252	£111,985	£256,490	£2,402,727	-£69,724	-£54,103	£20,400
3030	Geddington C of E Primary	Primary	-£103,661	-£929,929	£708,527	£51,086	£114,765	£874,378	-£55,551	-£159,211	-£66,732
3033	Grendon CE Primary	Primary	-£66,501	-£607,996	£451,853	£51,256	£84,452	£587,561	-£20,435	-£86,936	-£55,617
3066	TITCHMARSH C of E PRIMARY	Primary	-£145,100	-£666,354	£448,848	£70,784	£99,069	£618,701	-£47,654	-£192,754	-£99,150
3070	All Saints CE Primary School	Primary	-£78,292	-£1,109,170	£732,142	£97,449	£202,063	£1,031,655	-£77,515	-£155,806	-£119,853
3200	Brigstock Lathams CE Primary School	Primary	-£20,663	-£588,588	£440,470	£48,961	£104,175	£593,606	£5,018	-£15,645	£12,386
3201	KINGS CLIFFE ENDOWED SCHOOL	Primary	-£147,772	-£1,023,691	£729,397	£70,527	£139,828	£939,751	-£83,940	-£231,712	-£131,665
3345	Wilby CE (VA) Primary	Primary	-£7,468	-£522,533	£425,228	£19,924	£61,595	£506,748	-£15,785	-£23,253	£6,614
3406	St Patricks RC Primary	Primary	-£39,064	-£1,081,603	£864,115	£76,441	£136,121	£1,076,676	-£4,927	-£43,991	-£25,738
3514	Little Stanion Primary School	Primary	-£62,355	-£1,147,774	£910,500	£70,606	£154,832	£1,135,938	-£11,836	-£74,191	-£56,886
5206	Millbrook Infant School	Primary	-£199,379	-£1,286,107	£1,066,897	£61,118	£128,796	£1,256,811	-£29,296	-£228,675	-£92,632
5207	Millbrook Junior School	Primary	-£157,899	-£1,906,618	£1,645,787	£106,140	£234,291	£1,986,218	£79,600	-£78,299	-£61,815
5210	Stanion CE Primary School	Primary	-£83,675	-£530,833	£405,790	£31,544	£70,624	£507,958	-£22,875	-£106,550	-£63,615
	Total Maintained Primary Schools		-£3,822,622	-£42,118,159	£32,746,287	£2,775,232	£5,653,160	£41,174,679	-£943,480	-£4,766,102	-£2,380,883
4055	The Latimer Arts College	Secondary	-£1,083,818	-£6,287,610	£4,987,344	£432,759	£583,909	£6,004,012	-£283,599	-£1,367,417	-£755,341
	Total Maintained Secondary School		-£1,083,818	-£6,287,610	£4,987,344	£432,759	£583,909	£6,004,012	-£283,599	-£1,367,417	-£755,341
7031	Rowan Gate Primary School	Special	-£432,906	-£6,256,599	£5,020,562	£501,939	£427,395	£5,949,896	-£306,703	-£739,609	-£173,471
	Total Maintained Special School		-£432,906	-£6,256,599	£5,020,562	£501,939	£427,395	£5,949,896	-£306,703	-£739,609	-£173,471
	Total Maintained Schools		-£5,527,399	-£56,494,235	£46,494,325	£3,968,782	£6,920,170	£57,383,277	£889,042	-£4,638,356	-£3,120,203

* 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.

Below is a brief summary of the four current deficit schools identified in Q1.

- 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 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 Three additional school have been forecasted to end the year 2023/24 in a deficit as part of Period 10 monitoring.
- 2.8 Great Doddington is currently has staffing-related challenges stemming from the shared Executive Head, who also oversees Meadowside Primary. The dynamics of this financial reallocation, influenced by the joint leadership structure, are posing unique challenges that demand careful consideration and strategic management to ensure the continued effectiveness of both Great Doddington and Meadowside Primary.
- 2.9 Wilby Primary deficit is due to changes in staffing, particularly the appointment of a new Head. The introduction of new leadership has prompted a series of adjustments and reconfigurations within the staff structure, influencing the budgetary landscape of the school.
- 2.10 Croyland Primary School's deficit stems from overstaffing, prompting a reassessment of its staffing structure to align with budgetary constraints.
- 2.11 One school has submitted a request for licensed deficit. A formal request has been issued to schools currently facing deficits, requesting them to complete the required templates for the licensed deficit application. North Northamptonshire Council's Scheme for Financing Schools sets out the terms and conditions that maintained schools are expected to comply and operate within.

3 Support for Schools in financial difficulty

- 3.1 To assist schools facing financial challenges, they can request services from the schools traded team, which provides support directly to schools. The North Northampton Council has established a panel specifically for schools experiencing financial difficulties. Currently, schools that have not requested a licensed deficit or submitted a school budget plan are operating outside the scheme for financing schools.
- 3.2 The panel for financially challenged schools will convene in March to finalise memberships and Terms of Reference (TOR). Following this, schools in deficit will receive a formal request to submit licensed deficit applications and recovery plans in accordance with the licensed deficit policy approved for 2024/25.

4 Recommendations for Schools Forum

- 4.1 Schools forum is asked to note the current year's budget position based on Period 10 monitoring. 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.

5 Next steps

- 5.1 The Outturn position will be brought to July 2024 school forum

6 Financial implications

6.1 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.

7 Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

8. Risks

8.1 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 to provide the necessary support and prevent the situation from worsening.

Report Author:

Officer name: Salik Khan

Officer title: Finance Business Partner

Email address: Salik.Khan@northnorthants.gov.uk