

eNewsletter

• Issue 7 • July 2024 •

Lancashire

Schools
Forum



Schools Forum July 2024

Welcome to Issue 7, a post Forum Edition of the eNewsletter of the Lancashire Schools' Forum.

School Balances 2023/24

Overall, in 2023/24 school balances had decreased by circa £3m, to a total of £70m. 38 schools ended the 2023/24 financial year in deficit compared to 42 schools a year earlier.

Clawback at March 2025

The Schools Forum on 2nd July 2024 unanimously voted to Implement Clawback to excess balances at March 2024.

The Clawback Policy can be found on the [Schools Forum Website](#).

Schools Forum Annual Report 2023/24

The Forum have agreed their Annual Report for publication. This report highlights the key issues involving the Forum during the course of the 2023/24 financial year.

A copy of the report is available [here](#).

Scheme for Financing Schools

In March 2024, the DfE issued a 16th update to Statutory Guidance on schemes, which amended the guidance for the 2024 to 2025 financial year. In addition to some minor edits to wording, the main change highlighted by the DfE is that in the 'Borrowing by schools' section to reflect the introduction of the [International Financial Reporting Standard 16 \(IFRS16\)](#) and the Secretary of State providing blanket consent to certain categories of finance lease.

The main changes to the scheme incorporate the updated DfE guidance as noted above in section 3.6. In addition, the Authority has amended section 4.2 'Controls on surplus balances' in light of the recent implementation of clawback. The Authority has also reviewed the Lancashire scheme to refine the document and reference the latest DfE guidance where necessary.

A revised draft Lancashire Scheme, incorporating the proposed DfE can be viewed [here](#). Please let us know your views on the proposed scheme amendments by completing the eform available [here](#) by **11th September 2024**.



Service De-delegations 2025/26

The Forum supported de-delegation proposals being incorporated in the consultation with schools, which will be issued in September 2024 and will include similar proposals to those agreed for 2025/26, including:

- Staff costs – Public Duties/Suspensions
- Heritage Learning Service (Museum Service) - Primary Schools Only
- Schools Requiring additional Support
- Primary Inclusion Hubs.
- Children's Champions

What's Happening Locally

Schools Finance Webinar Series

Starting in the autumn Schools Financial Services will be offering a series of short webinars, briefing on a wide variety of topics.

The outline for the autumn term is shown below. Further details will be shared at the beginning of September outlining how to book your place on each session.

Date	Subject
Wednesday 25 th September	Consistent Financial Reporting
Thursday 31 st October	Overview of Schools Funding
Tuesday 26 th November	Managing Balances

There will be more sessions arranged for the spring and summer terms, information will be shared closer to the time.

The Great Lancashire Debate 2024

Following the success of last year's competition, we are excited to announce the return of The Great Lancashire Debate for 2024 – the public speaking competition for all schools in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool!

At Lancashire County Council we are passionate about engaging young people in our democracy and hearing their ideas about how we can make Lancashire the best place to live. This year, the contest will be held in conjunction with the celebration of 50 years of Lancashire County Council. It will culminate with finals held during UK Parliament Week (18 – 22 November 2024).

For more information about the competition and how to enter, please visit our website www.lancashire.gov.uk/the-great-lancashire-debate/



Schools Forum Updates

Autumn Term Schools Forum Dates

- High Needs Block Working Group 24th September 2024
 - Schools Block Working Group 1st October 2024
- Early Years Block Working Group 3rd October 2024
 - Lancashire Schools Forum 16th October 2024

Schools Forum Minutes

The draft minutes from the Forum meeting held on 2nd July 2024 are available on the Schools Forum website [here](#)

Schools Forum Membership 2024

A membership list can be found on the Forum [website](#).

Questions?

Remember, if you have any questions about the Schools Forum, please contact Millie Parkinson, Schools Forum Officer, 01772 534844, or email schoolsforum@lancashire.gov.uk

