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date 30th June 2009

**Clive Heaphy
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Dear Colleagues

Surplus Balances 2008/2009

At the School Forum meeting of 29th June 2009, it was agreed that the minutes of the meetings from the Surplus Balance Sub Group would be circulated to all members of the full School Forum. This will give you all the opportunity to review and pass comments on the process followed and detailed recommendations. The Sub-group's approach to allowable deductions to the surplus balances is tougher than previous years (i.e. at Bedfordshire CC) – in particular with the recommendation not to continue the additional allowance of 1% of school budget share or £10,000 (whichever the greater).

I would be grateful if all comments could be passed back to me by 7th July (copy to Dawn Hill - Dawn.Hill@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk), in order for a letter to be sent to all schools concerned before the end of term. The Sub-group will need to reconvene to consider those schools below the previous thresholds, if members accept that these should no longer apply.

I have also given you the link to the consultation on the new Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2009 - www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolfundingframework/. Consultation responses should be sent to Schools.Forums@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk by Friday 28th August 2009

Yours sincerely



**Jim Parker
Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council School Forum**