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Dear Colleagues

Surplus Balances 2008/2009

Further to my letter of the 30th June 2009 and the circulation of the Surplus Balance Sub Group minutes, I have only had responses from two forum members. The feedback so far requests that the £10,000 or 1% of SBS threshold is not removed for the balances for 2008/2009 and that all 139 Central Bedfordshire Schools should be advised before the criteria is changed. It is, therefore, proposed by the two members that this change takes place for 2009/10 balances.

Schools would have been allowed 5% for Middle and Upper Sectors, or 8% for all other phases of School Budget Share, as a surplus revenue balance, excluding Earmarked funds. The threshold of £10,000 or 1% of SBS is in addition to this and has been seen in previous years as an additional cushion. If the forum agree for the threshold to be in place a further year this would reduce the number of schools under scrutiny from 46 to 19.

I would be grateful if all forum members could respond either accepting or declining the removal of this additional threshold.

Responses are urgently required by the 10th July (Dawn.Hill@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) to ensure all schools concerned receive notification before schools break for the Summer term. If you have any queries, Dawn can be contacted on tel 01234 228901.

Yours sincerely



Jim Parker
Chairman of Central Bedfordshire Council School Forum