
Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund 2015/16

Report being considered by: Schools Forum
On: 25/01/2016
Report Author: Claire White
Item for: Information **By:** All Forum Members

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform School Forum Members of payments made to schools from the Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund budget in 2015/16.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the payments made and the proposed use of the unspent budget

Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council or the Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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3. Introduction

- 3.1 Under current school funding regulations, Local Authorities are allowed to top slice from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funding for a Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund with the approval of their Schools' Forum.
- 3.2 The Growth Fund is to support primary and secondary maintained schools and Academies *required* to provide extra places/classes in order to meet basic need within the authority, and funding schools where very limited pupil number growth requires an additional class *as set out by infant class size regulations*. It is not payable where schools have chosen to put on an additional class, but actual pupil numbers do not require them to do so. The Schools' Forum agreed the criteria for the 2015/16 Growth Fund at its meeting on 29th September 2014, and set aside a budget of £250,000.
- 3.3 The Falling Rolls Fund is to support good and outstanding primary and secondary schools with temporary falling rolls due to a population dip and where numbers are expected to rise again in 2 to 3 years time. The Schools' Forum agreed the criteria for the 2015/16 Growth Fund at its meeting on 29th September 2014, and set aside a budget of £40,000
- 3.4 Following the October 2015 Census, all schools were invited to make a funding request if they felt that their circumstances met the growth fund criteria. A review of the relevant pupil number data by Finance also identified schools that may potentially qualify for funding. To support their applications, schools were asked to submit information regarding increases in class and teacher numbers between the two academic years.

4. Budget and Payments Made 2015/16

- 4.1 Six schools meet the Growth Fund criteria and the relevant payments have been approved by the Head of Education as follows (the detailed calculations are in Appendix A):

Calcot Junior £29,167
 Robert Sandilands £29,167
 Winchcombe £29,167
 Purley £29,167
 John Rankin Junior £29,167
 The Willink £12,728

- 4.2 As experienced last year, no schools are eligible for the Falling Rolls fund. In order to qualify, schools that are experiencing a significant fall in pupil numbers as set out in the criteria need to have a good or outstanding Ofsted rating. There is only one school that meets the criteria, but it is not expected that the fall in pupil numbers will be recovered in the short term.
- 4.3 The overall position on these budgets is as follows:

	Growth Fund	Falling Rolls Fund
DSG Budget Set Aside (including carry forward from 2014/15)	£282,160	£40,000
Less Payments Made	-£158,562	-£0
Unspent Balance	£123,598	£40,000

- 4.4 It is likely that the total under spend of £163,598 will be carried forward and added to next year's growth fund. This is required in order to build up funding to pay for new schools (a new primary school expected to open in September 2017). No additional funding is paid to the local authority in the first year of a new school or as year groups are added, due to the fact that funding is based on the previous year pupil numbers.

5. Appendices

Appendix A – Growth Fund Applications, Calculations and Payments 2015/16