
Growth Fund 2018/19

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum
On: 21st January 2019
Report Author: Amin Hussain
Item for: Information **By:** All School representatives

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 2018/19.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the payments made and the amount of budget to be carried forward to 2019/20.

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 We have a commitment to pay for the opening to for the new school Highwood copse.
- 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 2018/19 Growth Fund at its meeting on 5th December 2016, and set aside a budget of £162,000.
- 3.3 There was a Falling Rolls Fund 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 purpose was to provide funding to enable the school to continue with their existing number of classes (but where current pupil numbers dictate that the number should be reduced) if population

Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund 2018/19

data suggests that this number of classes will be required again in the near future, thus avoiding a redundancy in the short term. The Schools' Forum agreed the criteria for the 2018/19 Falling Rolls Fund at its meeting on 5th December 2016, and set aside a budget of £40,000. At the meeting of the Schools' Forum on 11th December 2017, it was agreed not to continue with this fund, so no applications have been invited this year which would have become payable in the next financial year.

- 3.4 Following the receipt of the final October 2018 Census data, 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. Only growth in relation to basic need requirements in the area (and thus increases in PAN or bulge years approved by the local authority for this purpose) qualifies for this funding.

4. Budget and Payments Made 2018/19

- 4.1 Two schools have made an application for growth funding: Theale Primary school and Bradfield Primary school. Only Theale primary school met the Growth Fund criteria and the relevant payment, £13,743, has been approved by the Head of Education (the detailed calculations are in Appendix A):
- 4.2 Bradfield Primary school application is being reviewed by requesting more information to assess whether the application meets the Growth Fund criteria.
- 4.4 It has been agreed by Schools' Forum that any unspent balance will be carried forward and added to next year's growth fund, to ensure that there is enough funding being built up for 2019/20 in order to pay formula funding for additional pupils in the new primary school, Highwood Copse, when it is planned to be opened in September 2019. As funding received through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is based on the previous year's pupil numbers, if additional funds are not set aside it will mean a reduction in funding available to allocate out to existing schools. The DSG allocation currently includes a growth fund allocation based on 2017/18 costs only and there is no other source of funding in the first year of a new school or as year groups are added.

5. Appendices

Appendix A – Growth Fund Calculations 2018/19

Growth Fund Calculations 2018/19

Theale									
Year Group:	Pupil Numbers			No. of Classes			No. of Teachers FTE		
	Oct-18	Oct-17	Change	Oct-18	Oct-17	Change	Oct-18	Oct-17	Change
Reception	42	44	-2	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0
Year 1	45	44	1	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0
Year 2	43	45	-2	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0
SUB TOTAL Infant Classes	130	133	-3	4.5	4.5	0.0	4.5	4.5	0.0
Year 3	45	46	-1	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0
Year 4	46	44	2	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0
Year 5	40	46	-6	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0
Year 6	45	29	16	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
TOTAL All Classes	306	298	8	11.0	10.0	1.0	11.0	10.0	1.0
Classes Required (assuming 30 pupils per class)									
Infants	5	5	0						
Total	11	10	1						
Funding Options:	No.	Rate	Funding	No. Mths	Payment	Max Payable per class:			
Infant Class Funding		£40,000	0	7	£0	£23,333			
or									
Additional class	8	£2,945	23,560	7	£13,743	£29,167			
or									
Increase in PAN		£1,473	0	7	£0	£14,583			
Reason for funding approved or for not meeting criteria:									
Growing school, increased pupil numbers									£13,743
Head of Education agreed additional class									