
Growth Fund 2021/22 Payments

Report being considered by: Schools' Forum on 24th January 2022

Report Author: Melanie Ellis

Item for: Information

By: All School representatives

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Forum members of payments made to schools from the Growth Fund budget in 2021/22.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the payment of £38.5k to The Calcots.

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"/>
---	-------------------------------	---

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Growth funding is allocated by the Department for Education (DfE) by formula and forms part of the Schools Block DSG allocation. The funding can either be used to form a growth fund, or it can be added into the school formula. The Schools Forum must be consulted on the total size of the growth fund and criteria for use.
- 3.2 The purpose of the growth fund is to support maintained schools and academies which are required to provide extra places in order to meet basic need within the authority, and to meet the cost of new and reorganised schools including pre-opening and diseconomy costs. It can also fund schools where very limited pupil number growth requires an additional class as set out by infant class size regulations. It cannot be used for general growth in pupil numbers.
- 3.3 The growth fund is also to support new schools with pre-opening costs and diseconomies of scale.
- 3.4 Following the receipt of the final October 2021 Census data, all schools were invited to make a funding request if they felt that their circumstances met the growth fund criteria. 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

Growth Fund 2021/22

PAN or bulge years approved by the local authority for this purpose) qualifies for this funding.

4. Applications Made 2021/22

- 4.1 Only one school applied for growth funding: The Calcots.
- 4.2 The Calcots had submitted an application earlier this year for an exceptional payment from the growth fund due to the increase in pupil numbers in the spring term, who were not funded from April 2021 onwards. The increase to 187 pupils necessitated an additional class as required by the infant class size regulations. A payment of £27,500 for the period April – August 2021 was agreed by the Schools Forum.
- 4.3 The basis of The Calcots application is 'infant class size regulations'. The pupil numbers have increased to 201 (Oct 2021), therefore the need to maintain the 8 class structure is still required and the criteria for awarding growth funding has been met.

5. Payments 2021/22

- 5.1 Payment of £38,500 has been approved by the Head of Education. This covers the period Sept 2021 – March 2022.
- 5.2 In 2021/22 and 2022/23, it was agreed that the projected balance of the growth fund was sufficient and the allocations for both years have been added into the school formula. It has been agreed by Schools' Forum that any unspent balance on the growth fund will be carried forward.
- 5.3 The table below shows the forecast balance on the growth fund.

	Pre Opening		Diseconomies of Scale	Growth	Balance
	Staff	Equipment			
Balance 31.03.21					-1,500,000
Highwood Copse	14,934				-1,485,067
The Calcots				27,500	-1,457,567
Highwood Copse	65,000	6,300			-1,386,267
Highwood Underwriting			175,000		-1,211,267
The Calcots				38,500	-1,172,767
Contingency				115,500	-1,057,267
Est Balance 31.03.22					-1,057,267
Highwood Underwriting			155,000		-902,267
Contingency				115,500	-786,767
Est Balance 31.03.23					-786,767

6. Appendices

Appendix A- Growth Fund Calculation 2021/22

Calcot Infant School									
Please tick the box that forms the basis of your application									
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>a) Extra class in September to meet basic need</p> <p>b) Increase in Admission number in September by 5 or more to meet basic need</p> <p>c) Infant Class size - Additional class required as total number of R, yr 1 and yr 2 pupils has now exceeded a multiple of 30</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">X</div> </div> </div>									
	Pupil Numbers			No. of Classes			No. of Teachers FTE		
Year Group:	Oct-21	Oct-20	Change	Oct-21	Oct-20	Change	Oct-21	Oct-20	Change
Reception	61	59	2	2	2	0	2	2	0
Year 1	67	69	-2	3	3	0	3	3	0
Year 2	73	52	21	3	2	1	3	2	0
SUB TOTAL Infant Classes	201	180	21	8	7	1	8	7	0