

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR PUPIL GROWTH 2013-14

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek agreement on the methodology for allocating funding for pupil growth from the centrally retained growth fund in 2013-14.

Main Considerations

2. Funding for significant pupil growth can be retained centrally as part of the schools contingency before the formula is calculated. This can include funding to be allocated for additional classes arising from Basic Need or additional classes needed as a consequence of infant class size regulations. The requirements are that:
 - a. the growth fund can be used only for the purposes of supporting growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need and to support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation;
 - b. the fund must be used on the same basis for the benefit of both maintained schools and recouperment Academies;
 - c. any funds remaining at the end of the financial year must be added to the following year's DSG and reallocated to maintained schools and Academies through the local formula;
 - d. local authorities will be required to produce criteria on which any growth funding is to be allocated. These should provide a transparent and consistent basis (with differences permitted between phases) for the allocation of all growth funding. The criteria should both set out the circumstances in which a payment could be made and provide a basis for calculating the sum to be paid; and
 - e. local authorities will need to propose the criteria to the Schools Forum and gain its agreement before growth funding is allocated. The local authority will also need to consult the Schools Forum on the total sum to be top-sliced from each phase and must regularly update the Schools Forum on the use of the funding.
3. At the meeting on 13th July 2012 Schools Forum agreed that funding for pupil growth should be retained centrally and that a budget of £450,000 should be allocated for this purpose. This amount is based on historical spend on in year pupil growth, new school allowances and additional funding for school expansion.
4. The criteria currently used for funding pupil growth within the local Wiltshire funding formula are as follows:
 - a. **New School Allowance:** Schools receive funding in advance of pupils arriving in the school, based on the result of the pupil teacher ratio rounded up to the nearest next whole number. The PTRs used are 26.5:1 for KS1 & 27.5:1 for KS2 + 1.1. The topped up element to the next whole number is arrived at by multiplying the result by the salary of a teacher on the top point of the teachers mainscale + on-costs. This element will apply until the first year group has left the school or until the school is full. In addition the costs of a head teacher and 10 hours admin support will be available one "old" term before opening. 55% of the Basic Flat Rate will be available two "old" terms before opening. In the first year of opening the school will also receive 34% of the Basic Flat Rate, 17% in the second & 8.5% in the third year after opening. New schools may also receive an estimate of the new pupil intake for the

forthcoming academic year. This approach will be in place for the number of years equal to the number of year groups at the school. The initial estimate may be changed at a later date (but no later than the end of Term 6) to more accurately reflect the likely new intake, with the agreement of the school.

- b. **Class Expansion for Basic Need:** Where a school is expanded to provide additional classes to meet a basic need for places identified by the LA, from the month of opening for the remainder of the financial year only the school will receive $7/12\text{ths} \times 30 \times$ relevant AWPU for each additional class. Where a full class may not be needed then the school would receive $7/12\text{ths} \times$ estimate of increased September intake \times relevant AWPU. The definition of “expanded” is that a building project or addition of a mobile classroom has taken place.

- c. **In Year pupil number increases:** Funding for in year pupil growth is allocated is the in year increase in numbers would necessitate provision of an additional class. For primary schools total funded NOR is divided by 30 to arrive at a theoretical class number for the school. Total NOR from the following census is also divided by 30 to arrive at a new class number. If the total increase in NOR is greater than 13 and an extra class would be generated then additional funding is allocated per additional class. For secondary schools the calculation is based on the difference between the number of pupils arriving in Year 7 compared with the number of pupils leaving in Year 11. If the increase is greater than 18 pupils additional funding is allocated.

- 5. Schools Forum needs to approve the above criteria for application in 2013-14. For in year pupil increases the movement between January census dates is currently used, this would need to change to the movement between October census dates.
- 6. Further detail will be brought to Schools Forum in January 2013 on the anticipated spend against each of these criteria for budget setting purposes.

Proposals

- 7. That Schools Forum approve the criteria for allocating the pupil growth fund in 2013-14.

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