

## SCHOOLS FORUM AGENDA ITEM

For Action



For Information

**Brief Description of Item**

**Members are asked to consider and agree newly proposed allocations to schools and academies from the established DSG Growth Fund in 2016/17.**

**Date (s) of any Previous Discussion at the Forum**

The criteria for funding expanding schools and bulge classes in 2016/17 were included as part of the consultation on Primary and Secondary funding in 2016/17, and were agreed by members prior to submission of our final pro-forma to the EFA in January 2016. Individual allocations from the 2016/17 Growth contingency fund for new bulge classes and expansions have not yet been discussed by Forum members.

**Background / Context**

As was the case in 2015/16, the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2015 allow for a Growth fund to be held and managed centrally within the DSG. The regulations require that this fund is:

- ringfenced i.e. cannot be spent on any other purpose. Any unspent growth funding remaining at the year-end should be reported to the Schools Forum. Funding may be carried forward to the following funding period, and can be used specifically for growth if the authority wishes.
- available to be accessed by both maintained schools and recoupment academies across the District (with both maintained school and recoupment academy budgets contributing to the cost of this fund prior to new delegation).

The Regulations also require that local authorities consult their Schools Forum before incurring any expenditure due to a significant growth in pupil numbers as a result of the local authority's duty under section 13(1) of the 1996 Act to secure that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area.

Other than these main restrictions, how the Growth fund operates is for local determination.

The criteria for allocating funding from the Growth fund were agreed by Forum members following the consultation process in October 2015, and were part of our final funding pro-forma submitted to the EFA in January 2016. Funding has already been allocated for existing expansions and bulge classes; this funding is included in 2016/17 Section 251 Budget statements (and in Authority payments to academies).

**The agreed criteria and mechanism for allocating funding are as follows:**

- Where a school / academy is expanding or admitting a bulge class for the first time in September 2016, the school / academy is allocated 80% of the value of the base amount per pupil for the additional planned intake number, for the remaining proportion of the year. i.e.  $80\% \times \text{£Base APP} \times \text{additional planned intake number} \times 7/12$ .
- In the following financial year, funding is then allocated as follows:
  - A permanently expanding school / academy would receive funding calculated on the difference between the October Census pupil numbers and a calculation of the composite 5/12 + 7/12 numbers, based on an estimate of the following year September intake. The school / academy will then be allocated 80% of the value of the additional base amount per pupil, for the additional number of calculated pupils.
  - No additional funding is necessary or allocated for a school / academy that has a bulge class of 30 pupils from the previous year; this additional class is automatically funded within the normal budget as the full class will be included in the October Census.
  - Additional funding is allocated, however, for a school / academy that has a half bulge class in each year for the lifetime that half class is at the school / academy. An additional sum is allocated based on 80% of the value of the base amount per pupil for the difference between 30 and the actual number of children in the half class. E.g. For an existing half class of 15 pupils the funding would be calculated as  $(30-15) \times \text{£Base APP} \times 80\%$ .

### **Details of the Item for Consideration**

This paper asks members to consider allocations from the Growth fund to **3** primary schools that are expanding for the first time from September 2015; the funding will support an increase in provision as follows:

- **Barkerend Primary School** will increase in admission number from 60 to 90 pupils from September 2016, resulting in an allocation of **£40,197** in 2016/17
- **Stocks Lane Primary School** will increase in admission number from 15 to 30 pupils from September 2016, resulting in an allocation of **£20,099** in 2016/17
- **Lidget Green Primary School** will increase in admission number from 60 to 75 pupils from September 2016, resulting in an allocation of **£20,099** in 2016/17

There are currently no bulge classes planned for September 2016, but a further update will be given at the July meeting, once all reception class applications have been made.

There are currently no confirmed allocations for expansions or bulge classes in secondary schools for September 2016, but a further update will be given at the July meeting.

### **Implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (if any)**

If agreed, the total sum of £80,395 will be funded from the Growth fund set aside as a contingency for 2016/17; a sum of £250,000 is set aside for growth in Primary and £300,000 for growth in Secondary. £169,605 will remain in the Primary Growth fund after these new expansions have been funded. Any unspent funding from the Growth contingency at the end of the year would be released back into the DSG in 2017/18.

### **How does this item support the achievement of the District's Education Priorities**

The Bradford District has one of the fastest growing populations in the country leading to an increased demand on the available places. This increase in demand is being addressed through a phased expansion of a number of primary schools and academies across the district. The Local Authority has a duty to ensure that sufficient high-quality provision is available to meet the needs of all Bradford District children.

Allocations of funding from the Growth Fund are necessary to support schools and academies throughout their expansion in order that the District meets the demands of the local population.

### **Recommendations**

**Primary Forum members are asked to agree to allocate a total of £80,395 from the Primary Growth fund to the following schools in 2016/17:**

- **Barkerend Primary School £40,197**
- **Stocks Lane Primary School £20,099**
- **Lidget Green Primary School £20,099**

### **List of Supporting Appendices / Papers**

None.

### **Contact Officer (name, telephone number and email address)**

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