

## **DISTRIBUTION OF PUPIL GROWTH FUNDING FOR 2023/24**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Forum on the distribution to schools of the 'Growth Funding' element of the Schools Block for 2023/24.

### **Information and Advice**

2. For 2023/24 the ESFA has allocated Nottinghamshire £4.581 million (£4.217 million 2022/23) through their growth formula as part of the Schools Block of the DSG.
3. The ESFA's 'Schools operational guide: 2023 to 2024' states that the growth fund can only be used to:
  - support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet basic need
  - support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation
  - meet the costs of new schools
4. Agenda item 3a of the February 2023 Schools Forum meeting detailed the amount of growth funding that NCC had committed through variations of pupil numbers for 2023/24. £1.338 million was committed to 'new and growing schools' and secondary schools that have been required to permanently expand due to Basic Need. Following the pupil number variations, a balance of £3.243 million of the 2023/24 growth funding allocation remained uncommitted.

#### **2023/24 Primary Growth Fund Allocations**

5. NCC have historically used the growth funding to ensure that infant class sizes are not breached, and primary schools do not experience financial detriment as a result of Basic Need expansion.
6. Schools Forum has previously agreed to allocate revenue funding to schools that have expanded as a result of basic need by PAN + 25 for the autumn and Spring terms throughout the lifetime of the growth, i.e., from NCY R to 6.
7. Schools Forum has previously agreed to allocate revenue funding to schools that have expanded as a result of basic need by PAN + 15 (1/2 Form of entry) in NCY R, 2, 3 and 5 for the autumn and Spring terms.

8. Schools Forum has previously agreed to revenue fund schools where exceptional or over PAN allocations have taken place, resulting in unavoidable breaches of infant class sizes. The level of funding to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
9. Local Authorities are required to fund the pre-opening costs of new presumption free schools, and as such, NCC allocates up to £200,000 to new free schools to contribute towards revenue costs incurred prior to opening.
10. The number of primary commitments for 2023/24 is very low. This is reflective of the recent decline in the number of year R pupils entering schools and an overall fall in the primary school population. **Appendix A** illustrates the fall in the number of pupils requiring a year R place in Nottinghamshire over the last five years and NCC's projection for the continued reduction.
11. **Appendix B** lists the primary schools that are eligible to receive allocations of growth funding, as per the criteria listed in paragraphs 6 to 9, in financial year 2023/24.
12. Two academies are eligible to receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> term of financial support, relating to Summer term 2023, payable in financial year 2023/24. This funding amounts to **£34,638**.
13. The arrangements for funding growth in academies is such that the ESFA fund the summer term allocation via a reduction in recoupment from the Schools Block of the DSG. When completing the APT, NCC informed the ESFA of the summer term payment for the academies. Therefore, a net impact of the summer term payments for academies is **£0**.
14. Schools that have been expanded but are not recruiting to a sufficiently high level to cause lagged funding have been removed.
15. Schools eligible for PGF due to breaches in infant class size will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2023, although the number of schools is expected to be low.

### **2023/24 Secondary Growth Fund Allocations**

16. In June 2022 Schools Forum agreed that secondary schools and academies who agree to admit additional pupils over PAN, at the request of the Local Authority should be funded for the additional pupils at the minimum per pupil rate for the year. For 2023/24 this amount is £5,715 per pupil.
17. For primary to secondary transfers for September 2023, NCC has continued to have a temporary shortage of year 7 places available in many areas. The shortage of places is primarily due to a 'bulge' in pupil numbers reaching secondary school year-groups, along with delays to the delivery of projects to create additional secondary school places. **Appendix A** illustrates the increase in the number of pupils requiring a year 7 place in Nottinghamshire over the last five years and NCC's projected demand for the next eight years.
18. **Appendix C** shows the number of additional places that secondary schools and academies have agreed to admit through 'bulge' year groups for 2023/24 and the funding that has been allocated.

19. As per DfE Guidance, the ESFA will reimburse Local Authorities for any growth payments made to academies for the period April 2024 to August 2024. Therefore the cost to the growth fund of secondary 'bulge' year groups for 2023/24 is **£1.797 million**.

20. The total cost of commitments identified in this report for financial year 2023/24 is **£1.997 million**.

21. The unallocated balance of growth funding for 2023/24 is £1.246 million. This has been retained and effectively ring fenced for future growth in the Non-ISB reserve. The cumulative ring-fenced reserve for future growth now stands at **£7.926 million**.

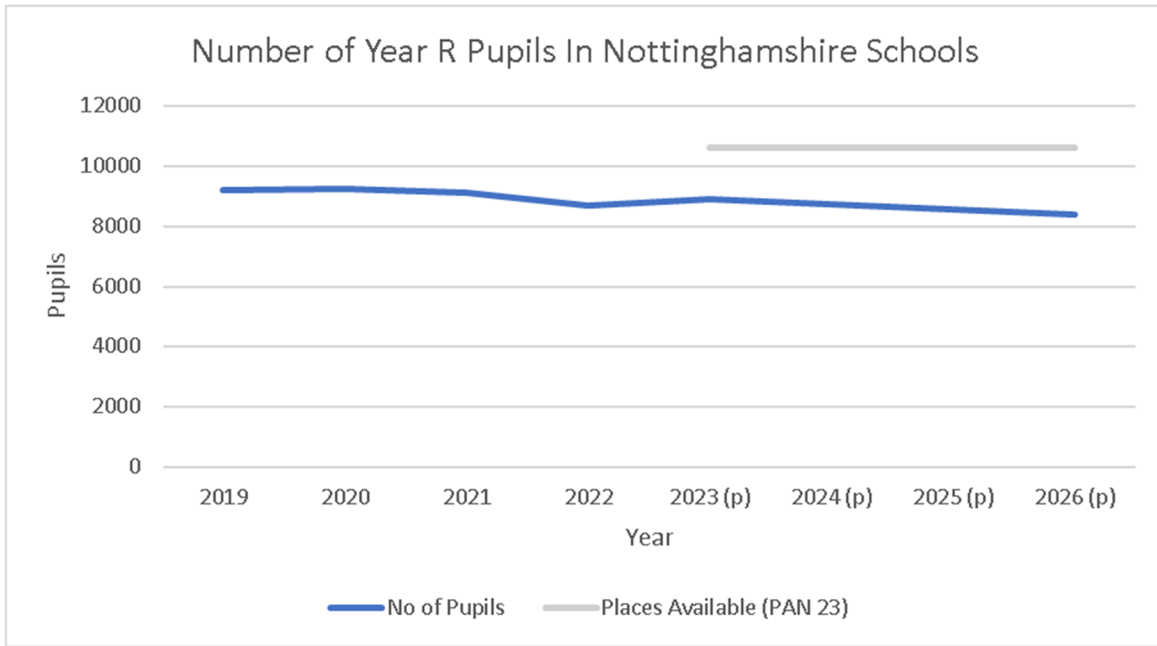
## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **That the Schools Forum:**

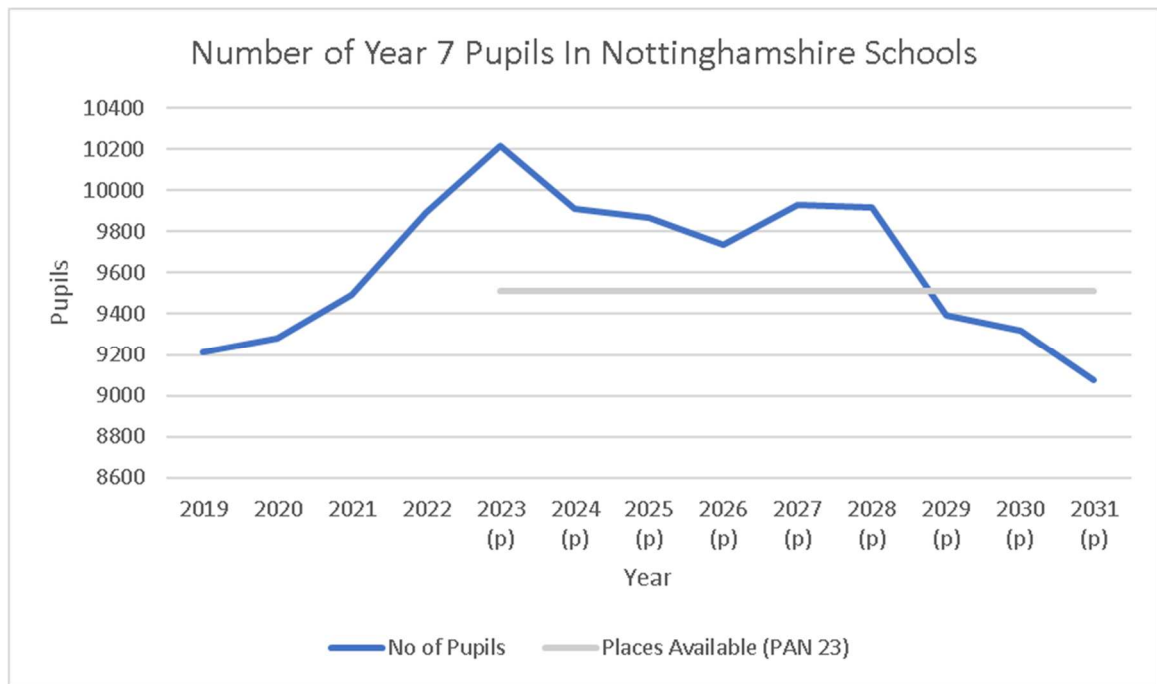
1. Notes the content of the report.
2. Continues to monitor the use of this fund throughout 2023-24.

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**Pupil Number Data and Projections**



(p) represents projected demand



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**Primary Pupil Growth Fund allocations as at June 2023****Appendix B****A 3<sup>rd</sup> term commitments agreed in 2022 – Summer 2023**

		£
Brookside Primary School	Rushcliffe	17,319
Chetwynd Primary School	Broxtowe	17,319
<b><u>Total</u></b>		<b><u>34,638</u></b>
Academies recouped through APT		
		<b>-34,638</b>
<b><u>Net Total</u></b>		<b><u>0.00</u></b>

**B Presumption Free School – Pre opening Grant**

Millside Spencer Academy – deferred from 2022/23	200,000
	<b><u>200,000</u></b>

**C PAN Increase due to basic need – 2 terms support – Autumn 2023 & Spring 2024**

<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
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**D Infant Class Size Breach – 2 terms support – Autumn 2023 & Spring 2024****0**

<b><u>Total Forecast Expenditure 2023/24</u></b>	<b><u>200,000</u></b>
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NB Further ICS breach will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2023.

## Secondary Pupil Growth Fund allocations as at June 2023

## Appendix C

District	School	PAN	Places Offered	Additional places	Allocation Sept 23 to March 24	Allocation April 24 to August 24	Total Allocation to School
Broxtowe	Alderman White School	145	160	15	£ 50,006.25	£ 35,718.75	£ 85,725.00
Ashfield	Ashfield School	405	412	7	£ 23,336.25	£ 16,668.75	£ 40,005.00
Broxtowe	Bramcote College	120	150	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Gedling	Carlton Academy	230	260	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Broxtowe	Chilwell School	180	210	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Gedling	Colonel Frank Seely Academy	180	210	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Rushcliffe	East Leake Academy	210	240	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Broxtowe	George Spencer Academy	250*	290	19	£ 63,341.25	£ 45,243.75	£ 108,585.00
Ashfield	Holgate School	240	270	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Mansfield	Manor Academy	240	270	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Bassetlaw	Outwood Academy Portland	300	360	60	£ 200,025.00	£ 142,875.00	£ 342,900.00
Mansfield	Queen Elizabeth Academy	180	210	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Bassetlaw	Retford Oaks Academy	240	270	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Rushcliffe	South Nottinghamshire Academy	150	180	30	£ 100,012.50	£ 71,437.50	£ 171,450.00
Mansfield	The Garibaldi School	175	190	15	£ 50,006.25	£ 35,718.75	£ 85,725.00
Newark	The Joseph Whitaker School	235	244	9	£ 30,003.75	£ 21,431.25	£ 51,435.00
Gedling	The Redhill Academy	238	260	22	£ 73,342.50	£ 52,387.50	£ 125,730.00
Rushcliffe	The South Wolds Academy	150	210	60	£ 200,025.00	£ 142,875.00	£ 342,900.00
Rushcliffe	The West Bridgford School	216*	274	12	£ 40,005.00	£ 28,575.00	£ 68,580.00
Rushcliffe	Toot Hill School	300	320	20	£ 66,675.00	£ 47,625.00	£ 114,300.00
	<b>Total</b>				<b>£ 1,796,891.25</b>	<b>£ 1,283,493.75</b>	<b>£ 3,080,385.00</b>

\*Previous recruitment pattern partially removes lag in funding