

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECONDARY REVENUE GROWTH FUND ARISING FROM BASIC NEED

Purpose of the Report

1. Following the School Forum decision to decline in principle the creation of a secondary revenue growth fund at the Schools Forum meeting of 13th September 2016, this report presents the additional information requested by Forum members in relation to when the primary basic need expansions are likely to impact on secondary admissions.

Information and Advice

2. Since 2013, a programme of basic need expansions have been undertaken in the primary sector funded by the DfE and section 106 contributions. Appendix 1 presents a summary overview of the schools expanded, the areas in which they are located and the feeder secondary schools linked to these primary schools. This appendix clearly demonstrates that the earliest point that any of the primary basic expansions are likely to impact on secondary admissions is 2020 when Quarrydale Academy, Kirkby College, Outward Valley, Redhill Academy, Brunts School, Queen Elizabeth's Academy, Samworth Academy, Magnus Academy, The West Bridgford School and Toothill School will receive greater numbers of pupils from schools where their PANs have been increased under the Basic Need expansion programme.
3. A review of the current PANs of these 10 schools alongside projections and net capacity data it can be inferred that there are 4 schools where there is no immediate impact anticipated and 6 where this growth is likely to cause pressure in terms of physical capacity to accommodate additional students.
4. A particular challenge is in relation to assessing secondary basic need arises from the powers that academies have to recruit above their PANs; several Nottinghamshire secondary academies have historically recruited significantly above their PANs for several years which has a direct impact on projected numbers. Projections are based on a weighted average of the previous three years recruitment; where this is skewed by over PAN admissions and expanded catchments the projected demand is greater than it would otherwise have been had recruitment been capped at PAN and the catchments remained unchanged.
5. Net capacity is a nationally agreed formula which takes into consideration teaching space, the curriculum model and the published admission number. It is used by the DfE and the LA to report yearly whether schools have sufficient space to accommodate current and projected pupil numbers.
6. A further challenge arises when secondary academies expand and/or change their catchment areas. This clearly directly impacts on strategic place planning in terms of

meeting catchment demands. This is exacerbated when catchments are expanded across LA boundaries.

7. The request by the West Bridgford secondary academies to Schools Forum to create a secondary revenue growth fund would need better understanding as to why the secondary pressure has arisen at this particular time in advance of the primary basic need 'bulge' which will hit secondary schools in 2020 at the earliest. An analysis of the 3 West Bridgford secondary schools suggests that West Bridgford and Rushcliffe schools have consistently recruited over their published admission numbers and been able to meet catchment area demand.

School	Year	PAN	In catchment	Out of catchment	Total
Becket (no catchment area)	2016	166	25(WB) 28(R)	121	174
	2015	166	12(WB) 34(R)	129	175
	2014	166	16(WB) 25(R)	123	164
Rushcliffe	2016	250	244	15	259
	2015	232	206	32	238
	2014	232	200	37	237
West Bridgford	2016	216	233	32	265
	2015	210	216	28	244
	2014	210	220	15	235

8. It should also be recognised that there has been in year growth across all year groups in both the primary and secondary sectors in recent years. The brief analysis of secondary Year 9 (tracked from Yr. 7) admissions for the West Bridgford area suggests that there is essentially no inward or outward population flux.

School	2014 (Yr7)	2015 (Yr8)	2016 (Yr9)	+/-
Becket	164	166	167	+3
Rushcliffe	237	238	237	0
W Bridgford	235	231	229	-6

9. Basic Need. Since 2011, NCC has accessed a total of £53 million Basic Need and £16m S106 (developer contributions) funding; this was identified for the primary sector. This funding has created 5,064 additional permanent primary school places. The amount of funding allocated to NCC is dependent on the accurate completion of the annual statutory SCAP (school capacity) return made in autumn term each year. The funding allocation for 2017/18, has allocated £676.625. For 2018/19 the allocation is £20,467,135. Significantly, this is the first year that secondary growth has been identified under Basic Need. This

ensures that the expansion or indeed the building of a new secondary school, could be undertaken before 2020. The funding for 2018/19 is not ring-fenced and is weighted 53% secondary (£10,847,581), and 47% primary (£9,619,553)

10. It should be noted that current analysis of likely secondary ‘hot spots’ by 2020 include: the West Bridgford School, Quarrydale, Redhill, Brunts, Samworth and Toothill. In most instances stated here these “hot-spots” are produced by high levels of out of catchment recruitment, expanded catchments or significant decreases in PANs.

Other Options Considered

11. Given that the impact of the primary growth is not anticipated in the secondary sector until 2020, Schools Forum may consider revisiting the concept of a secondary revenue growth fund. However, given the national fair funding review, which is likely to result in the direct funding of all schools without the mediation of the local authority, it remains unclear as to how a local growth fund could operate.
12. It is clear that some secondary academies are schools of preference by many families. The EFA does allow for popular schools to apply directly to the EFA for additional revenue funding. In the short term, secondary academies experiencing revenue pressures should explore formally with the EFA opportunities to access additional revenue funding. A secondary growth fund will require the agreement, through consultation, of all secondary schools to a top slicing of the secondary DSG funding arrangement (with associated allocation criteria) which will result in less popular schools receiving less funding.

Recommendation/s

That the schools Forum:

- notes the contents of the report and considers the implications of establishing a secondary growth fund.

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