

DISTRIBUTION OF PUPIL GROWTH FUNDING FOR 2021/22

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Forum on the distribution to schools of the 'Growth Funding' element of the Schools Block for 2021/22.

Information and Advice

2. For 2021/22 the ESFA allocated Nottinghamshire £3.562 million (£3.789 million 2020/21) through their growth formula as part of the Schools Block of the DSG.
3. The ESFA's 'Schools revenue funding 2021 to 2022 Operational guide' 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 – pre and post start up.
4. Agenda item 3b of the February Schools Forum meeting detailed the amount of growth funding that NCC had committed through variations of pupil numbers for 2021/22. £0.9 million was committed to new and growing schools and schools that have been required to expand due to Basic Need. The paper also stated that, following the pupil number variations, a balance of £2.662 million of the 2021/22 growth funding allocation remained uncommitted.

2021/22 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 agreed previously to revenue fund schools where exceptional or over PAN allocations have taken place resulting in unavoidable breaches of infant classes. The level of funding to be determined on a case by case basis.
9. **Appendix A** lists the primary schools that are eligible to receive allocations of growth funding, as per the criteria listed in paragraphs 5 to 8, in financial year 2021/22.
10. Four academies are eligible to receive a 3rd term of financial support, relating to Summer term 2021, payable in financial year 2021/22. This funding amounts to **£80,810**.
11. 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 payments for two academies. Therefore, a net impact of the summer term payments for academies is **£32,324**.
12. **£200,000** has been cumulatively allocated to Multi Academy Trusts that have been selected to sponsor presumption free schools scheduled to open in September 2022. This funding is the first tranche of the pre-opening grant that is paid by NCC to support schools with lead in costs prior to opening. The remainder of each grant is scheduled to be paid to MATs in financial year 2022/23.
13. Nine schools require funding to mitigate the impact of lagged funding due to previous basic need expansions either by PAN + 15 (1/2 FE) or by PAN + 25 (1 FE). These schools will be funded for the Autumn 21 and Spring 22 terms. These payments amount to **£310,076**.
14. Schools eligible for PGF due to breaches in infant class size will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2021.
15. Schools expanded previously which are not recruiting to a sufficiently high level to justify lagged funding have been removed.
16. The total cost of commitments identified in this report for financial year 2021/22 will be **£542,400**.
17. The unallocated balance of £2.12m has been retained and effectively ring fenced for future growth in the Non-ISB reserve. This approach will protect against the uncertainty around the level of growth funding in future years. The cumulative ring fenced reserve for future growth now stands at £5.755 million.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Schools Forum:

1. Notes the content of the report and agrees the allocations listed in **appendix A** for payment to primary schools for 2021-22.
2. Continues to monitor the use of this fund throughout 2021-22.

Steven Hawkins
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Pupil Growth Fund allocations as at June 2021**Appendix A****A 3rd term commitments agreed in 2020 – Summer 2021**

		£
Robert Mellors Primary School	Gedling	16,162
Mapplewells Primary School	Ashfield	16,162
Lambley Primary School	Gedling	16,162
Brookside Primary School (30 to 45)	Rushcliffe	16,162
Brookside Primary School (Bulge Year)	Rushcliffe	16,162
<u>Total</u>		<u>80,810</u>

Academies recouped through APT x 2		
Mapplewells Primary School and Brookside Primary School		-48,486

Net Total **32,324**

B Free School revenue funding

1st tranche payment of pre-opening grant for free schools to open in September 2022

Total **£200,000**

C PAN Increase due to basic need – 2 terms support – Autumn 2020 & Spring 2021

Farmillo Primary School	Mansfield	33,064
Stanhope Primary School	Gedling	33,064
Mapplewells Primary School	Ashfield	33,064
Sutton Road Primary School	Mansfield	33,064
Lantern Lane Primary School	Rushcliffe	33,064
Ordsall Primary School	Bassetlaw	33,064
Lambley Primary School	Gedling	33,064
Radcliffe on Trent Junior School	Rushcliffe	66,128
Christ Church Primary (Non Staffing)	Newark and Sherwood	12,500

Total **310,076**

Total Forecast Expenditure 2020/21 **542,400**

NB Any ICS breach will not be known until admissions are finalised in July 2021