

SCHOOLS FORUM – 18 DECEMBER 2014

Title of paper:	Proposed budget for pupil growth for 2015/16
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Summary

As part of the budget setting process for 2015/16, this report outlines the proposed requirements of the pupil growth contingency for 2015/16 and seeks Schools Forum's approval to allocate £1.047m of the Dedicated Schools Grant to fund this proposal. The funding will be used to fund pupil growth in both maintained schools and academies.

As part of the budget setting process for 2015/16, the School Funding team must inform the Education Funding Agency (EFA) by mid-January 2015 on the level of funding allocated for pupil growth for academies for the period April 2015 to August 2015, from the pupil growth contingency fund.

The Department for Education (DfE) Schools Forums: operational and good practice guidance document from October 2013 identifies central spend on and the criteria for pupil growth as one of the functions Forum are responsible for deciding on. (Page 7)

Recommendation(s):

1	To approve the allocation of £1.047m to support pupil growth in 2015/16.
2	To note (a) the requirement to allocate funding to academies for the period April 2015 to August 2015 as guided by the EFA; (b) the amount to be allocated is £0.297m; (c) the funding will be included on the submission of the 2015/16 Authority Pro-forma Tool sent in to the EFA which includes all school budgets shares for 2015/16 and the amounts to be given out to academies for pupil growth April 2015 to August 2015; (d) the total amount of academies individual school budget shares will be netted off against the pupil growth given out for this period and the Authority's Dedicated Schools Grant for 2015/16 will be adjusted accordingly.
3	To delegate authority to the Schools Forum sub-group to consider the current criteria for allocation of funding through the pupil growth contingency fund and bring updated criteria back to Forum in spring 2015 for a decision, if required.
4	To approve that an update on the spend for the pupil growth contingency fund in 2015/16 is included as a standing item on the agenda for all future Schools Forum meetings.

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The pupil growth contingency fund provides funding predominantly to schools who have admitted additional school children to meet growing need for school places. The level of pupil growth in Nottingham in recent years has been substantial and by

September 2016 an additional 4,300 primary school places will have been added across the city.

- 1.2 Staffing and resource costs associated with these additional places must be funded through the pupil growth contingency fund, using the criteria agreed by Schools Forum in July 2013.
- 1.3 It is proposed to review the funding criteria mentioned above, via the sub-group of Schools Forum, to ensure it is still fit for purpose and meets the needs of schools admitting additional children, particularly as school expansions will move in to the secondary phase. If the sub-group recommend any changes to the criteria, a follow up paper will come to Schools Forum in spring 2015 to seek approval to change the criteria.

2. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 For 2015/16, the level of funding for pupil growth requested from Schools Forum is £1.047m. In 2013/14, this was £0.500m and in 2014/15 the growth was increased to £1.523m. The table below demonstrates how the fund for 2015/16 is estimated to be spent. Full details are in Appendix 1.

Planned expansions	£0.338m
Classroom set up	£0.112m
Additional funding for academies to fund full financial years	£0.297m
Contingency	£0.300m
	£1.047m

- 2.2 Where growth funding has been provided to an academy from September 2014, there is a requirement by the EFA for local authorities to continue this payment until August 2015. In 2015/16 the pupil growth contingency will allocate £0.297m to academies for April 2015 to August 2015. This is because academies are funded based on an academic year rather than a financial year and this means that local authorities have to pass onto academies a full 12 months of funding whereas they only need to fund maintained schools for 7/12ths of the year.
- 2.3 To provide the local authority with the appropriate level of funding to continue these payments the EFA will make an adjustment to the amount recouped for academies in 2015/16. They will take the academies school budget shares and then deduct the amounts given out for pupil growth for April 2015 to August. This revised total is then the amount that is recouped.
- 2.4 In October 2014, a report was considered at the Forum to update members on the level of school expansion in the city and outlined how the previous contingency fund of £0.500m was no longer sufficient to support the level of growth in the city. For 2015/16, the known requirements for the pupil growth contingency fund total £0.747m. A further £0.300m is requested to allow for contingency. This is in line with the previous financial year where the requirements of the fund grew from £1.009m to £1.340m between January and April 2014 as more planned expansions came online.
- 2.5 Any unspent money will be returned to Schools Forum at the end of the financial year.

- 2.6 In 2014/15, the nature of school expansions changed and three schools sought to increase their numbers by two forms of entry. These are Heathfield Primary School, Djanogly Northgate and Bluecoat Academy who all increased their capacities by 420 places. Due to the nature of these expansions, a request to vary the pupil numbers at these schools was submitted to the EFA and this request was approved. This means these schools will receive the lagged funding required to grow their schools directly through their budgets and they will not require annual funding from the pupil growth contingency fund.
- 2.7 Updates on how the 2015/16 pupil growth contingency fund is spent will come to Forum as per the frequency determined through recommendation 3.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4. OUTCOMES/DELIVERABLES

- 4.1 Continued provision of required school places.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 5.1 As per paragraph 2.1 this report seeks approval to allocate £1.047m for pupil growth for both maintained schools and academies in the in the city in 2015/16. If approved the funding will be included in the 2015/16 budget and will be funded from the 2015/16 Dedicated Schools Grant settlement.
- 5.2 Included in the £1.047m funding outlined in paragraph 5.1 the School Organisation Team will be allocating £0.297m to academies in 2015/16 to fund the extra pupils they took in from September 2014. Refer to paragraphs 2.2 for an explanation as to why this is required and 2.3 to obtain an explanation as to how this money is given back to the local authority. The funding reimbursed to the Authority by the EFA will be added into the Children & Families Act Contingency.
- 5.3 As stated in paragraph 2.3 any unspent monies at the end of the financial year will be returned to the Statutory School Reserve.
- 5.4 The 2015/16 Pupil Growth for academies relating to April 2014 to August 2014 will be included in the submission of the 2015/16 school budgets to the EFA.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

- 6.1 The EFA in 2013/14 produced a paper titled '2013-14 Revenue Funding Arrangements: Operational Guidance for Local Authorities' which outlined the ability for funding to be retained centrally for significant growth to meet basic need and to meet the cost of new schools.
- 6.2 Without this funding, 14 schools will have insufficient funding in their budgets to support increased pupil numbers.

7. HR ISSUES

7.1 Not applicable

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in the EIA.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

9.1 None

10. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

10.1 Pupil Growth Contingency Fund – update and criteria setting – July 2013

10.2 Update on Pupil Growth Contingency Fund – October 2014

Appendix 1 – breakdown of schools due to receive funding from 2015/16 pupil growth contingency fund

School	Amount
Planned expansions	338,170
Blue Bell Hill	38,716
Djanogly Northgate	38,716
Dunkirk Primary	38,716
Forest Fields Primary	38,716
Glenbrook	38,716
Riverside	38,716
Rosslyn	38,716
Rufford	28,442
Sycamore	38,716
Classroom set up	112,000
Heathfield Primary	48,000
Nottingham Academy	16,000
Riverside	8,000
Rosslyn Park	8,000
Rufford	8,000
Bluecoat Primary	16,000
Glenbrook	8,000
Additional funding for academies to fund full financial years	296,766
Blue Bell Hill	27,654
Bluecoat Primary	52,630
Djanogly Northgate	27,654
Glenbrook	55,308
Nottingham Academy	27,654
Riverside	27,654
Rosslyn	22,904
Sycamore	27,654
Whitemoor	27,654
Contingency	300,000
Total	1,046,936

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Name and brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed				
Proposal to increase the Pupil Growth Contingency Fund allocation to £1.5M from £500k.				
Information used to analyse the effects on equality				
Analysis of the May School census for all schools in Nottingham, to understand the impact of this funding on the pupil population of the city.				
	Could particularly benefit (X)	May adversely impact (X)	How different groups could be affected: Summary of impacts	Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact (or why action not possible)
People from different ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>This paper discusses funding to support schools across Nottingham so the latest school census data, May 2014, was used to assess equalities impact.</p> <p>26.1% of pupils in Nottingham speak English as an Additional Language, 31.8% of children qualify for free school meals (data collected before free school meals became available for all Key Stage One pupils) and 13.4% of children in Nottingham Schools have special educational needs.</p>	Not needed.
Men, women (including maternity/pregnancy impact), transgender people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Disabled people or carers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
People of different faiths/beliefs and those with none.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Older or younger people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (e.g. marriage/civil partnership, looked after children, cohesion/good relations, vulnerable children/adults)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:				
No major change needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adjust the policy/proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Adverse impact but continue <input type="checkbox"/> Stop and remove the policy/proposal <input type="checkbox"/>				
Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:				
Not needed				
Approved by (manager signature): Jennifer Hardy, Project Manager 23 September 2014			Date sent to equality team for publishing: 23 September 2014	