

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Schools Forum

Consultation on the funding requirements of secondary schools for pupil growth

Purpose

The purpose of this briefing note is to notify Schools Forum of the requirement to review and update the Pupil Growth Contingency Criteria to include provision for the funding of secondary school pupil growth.

The current pupil growth criteria sets out how primary schools are to be funded for pupil growth. The City's significant pupil growth is now impacting on capacity requirements in the secondary sector. Trinity Academy will be the first secondary school to increase capacity from September 2017, following rebuilding work. Therefore, the pupil growth funding criteria needs to be reviewed / amended as a priority, to ensure it is relevant and appropriate for secondary school pupil growth.

To assist the LA in developing the criteria for secondary schools the LA is asking Schools Forum to give their opinions on what principles they think the funding of secondary schools should be based. This will be considered and will feed into a report to Schools Forum on 9 November 2017, seeking approval of a proposed revised criteria recommended by the LA.

Secondary School Places – background and requirements

The increased demand for school places is moving from the primary phase into the secondary phase. City secondary schools have historically runs with a significant surplus capacity. However, the growth in both birth rate and new arrivals to the city has resulted in a projected overall deficit of secondary school place provision. The primary phase demand has seen the Council deliver an additional 4000 primary school places, though a capital programme of approx. £40m. This has been achieved through a combination of adding capacity to existing buildings, refurbishment of mothballed premises and delivery of 3 new build schools sites. The delivery of the required secondary capacity is potentially far more challenging and complex.

The table below shows the projected number of pupils by year group (this excludes post 16 requirements) set against the current overall capacity of the city secondary estate and the annual Year 7 admission number (PAN – final column)

Pupil Age	11	12	13	14	15			
Year	7	8	9	10	11	Total	Capacity	PAN
2016/17	2830	2851	2779	2528	2527	13515	15790	3070
2017/18	3084	2832	2851	2772	2531	14070	15645	3070
2018/19	3163	3084	2832	2851	2772	14702	15500	3080
2019/20	3285	3163	3084	2832	2851	15215	15475	3080
2020/21	3460	3285	3163	3084	2832	15824	15450	3080
2021/22	3466	3460	3285	3163	3084	16458	15450	3080
2022/23	3564	3466	3460	3285	3163	16938	15500	3090
2023/24	3524	3564	3466	3460	3285	17299	15500	3090
2024/25	3451	3524	3564	3466	3460	17465	15500	3090
2025/26	3299	3451	3524	3564	3466	17304	15500	3090

The shaded cells in the table illustrate where projected demand outstrips capacity.

Summary of current situation

- These projections suggest that there is a need for the city to provide between 15 – 17 additional forms of entry as a minimum, to meet peak demand by 2022.
- There is potential for this need to increase further, dependent upon place planning demands in the wide County conurbation.
- To date, 5 forms of additional entry have been identified as available: 1 form from Sept 17 (Trinity) and 4 forms from Sept 18 (NUAST – subject to approval).

Context of the pupil growth funding model

As part of the National Funding Formula proposals The Government are proposing that in the financial year 2018/19, pupil growth will be funded based on 2017/18 historic spend. When this has happened in the past, the LA have been funded based on the budget rather than the expenditure.

As a result of the second stage consultation on the national funding formula not being published, there is currently no clear guidance on how the growth funding will work from the financial year 2019/20. However, based on the proposals set out by the Government in the Schools National Funding Formula – Consultation Stage 2, from the financial year 2019/20 the Government are proposing to fund pupil growth based on lagged pupil growth. The lagged growth method would count all pupil number increases in every school nationally, at a year-group level, based on the 2 previous years and use this to calculate the total amount of pupil growth in each local authority area. The Consultation Stage 2 states that this could involve counting pupil growth only above a set threshold, to ensure we are counting only growth that is likely to result in an extra class, rather than lower levels of growth that are more likely to be accommodated in existing classes. The total amount of funding available nationally for growth would be allocated to local authorities on a per-pupil basis, based on the distribution of the lagged pupil growth across the country.

As the LA does not know how much funding it will be receiving for pupil growth from the financial year 2019/20, the amount that will be allocated to an expanding school cannot be quantified. Moving forward, the LA will need to manage the growth funding they

receive from year-to-year and review the pupil growth contingency criteria when clear guidance is released from the Department of Education.

Therefore, Schools Forum representatives are being consulted to share their views on setting the pupil growth contingency funding criteria for secondary schools in the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19 only.

Author

Lucy Juby

☎ 01158 765041

✉ lucy.juby@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Other colleagues who have provided input:

Julia Holmes

☎ 01158 763733

✉ julia.holmes@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

13 June 2017