

Delegated Decision

BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR BUSINESS, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Approval to publish formal Statutory Notice - proposal to expand Middleton Primary from 420 to 630 places

Finance observations

If the proposal to expand Middleton Primary from a 420 place school to a 630 place school were approved then the Local Authority would fund the additional class admitted in the financial year 2018/19 from the Pupil Growth Contingency from the Local Authorities pupil growth fund. This funding would cover the period September 2018 to March 2019. Once these additional pupils were accounted for on the October 2018 Autumn Census they would then be funded in the following financial year through the funding formula.

In the financial year 2018/19 the School Organisation Team will allocate funding to the school based on the eligibility criteria approved by Schools Forum. Noted below are the values assigned to each type of funding that may be allocated to the school based on the pupil growth funding criteria, based on the admission of an additional 30 pupils.

| Funding Streams | £ |
|--|--------------|
| Teacher M3 (7/12ths) | 17,824 |
| Teaching Assistant Pt 22 (7/12ths) | 14,242 |
| Midday Supervisor Pt 8 (7/12ths) | 2,150 |
| Classroom set up costs | Up to £8,000 |
| Utilities (7/12ths) based on £150 per pupil per year | £2,625 |

Due to the results 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 at a year-group level between the 2 previous years and use this to calculate the total amount of pupil growth in each local authority area. 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 Local Authority do not know how much funding they 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 Local Authority will need to manage the growth funding they receive from year-to-year and review pupil growth contingency criteria when clear guidance is released.

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The approval of this decision is to publish a statutory notice and as such does not produce any additions to the Council's current Capital Programme. Should the proposal go ahead further approval will be required whereby resources are identified and committed against this project.

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