

Schools Management Forum

Report of: Dianne Nielsen

Subject: Growth Fund

Date: 15th January 2020

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 Following the School Management Forum (SMF) meeting on 13 November 2019 where the Growth Fund criteria was agreed. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the forum on an amendment to the criteria.

2.0 Background

2.1 It has been requested by the department to amend the criteria. This is due to a technicality of how schools would receive funding. It is proposed to remove the prior autumn term census as a method of agreeing pupil numbers. Under the current method, if a school was requested to increase their PAN for a second year, they wouldn't be eligible for funding. Therefore there is a requirement to amend this.

2.2 The proposed new method will change from (please refer to appendix, item b):

- The actual funding allocated to a school will be based on the **actual** number of increased pupils on roll, not based on the increase in the PAN. Therefore, the actual numbers will be the number of pupils on roll at the starts of the Autumn term in comparison to the number of pupils funded in the individual school budget share (ie the last October census).

To:

- The actual funding allocated to a school will be based on the **actual** number of increased pupils on roll, not based on the increase in the PAN. Therefore, the actual numbers will be the number of pupils on roll at the starts of the Autumn term over and above the PAN.

All other criteria remain unchanged.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That School Management Forum agree the change to the criteria.

Appendix

Schools Growth Fund Criteria

- a. Schools/Academies will only be able access the fund where they have had an increase in their PAN at the request of the local authority to meet a lack of available space in the local area as part of the planned changes agreed in advance.
- b. The actual funding allocated to a school will be based on the **actual** number of increased pupils on roll, not based on the increase in the PAN. Therefore, the actual numbers will be the number of pupils on roll at the starts of the Autumn term over and above the PAN.
- c. All places are funded once the increase in the pupil admissions (in line with PAN) is more than 15 places.
- d. The amount to be funded per pupil will be based on 7/12's of the "Basic Entitlement Funding" (AWPU) for the age group of the pupil for maintained schools.
- e. Where places are commissioned by the LA at an academy in Middlesbrough, a full 12 months support will be provided, in recognition that increased pupil numbers in academies will not feed through into their budget until the following September.
- f. Increases in admissions that meet the agreed criteria will be funded automatically and do not need to be considered by School Forum.
- g. It is proposed that if circumstances require a different approach, that these are presented to Forum with additional information in order that a separate decision can be made concerning access to the growth fund.
- h. Where there is a dispute over the funding amount, this will be presented to the Forum for a final decision.
- i. This continuation of this criteria is subject to potential changes resulting from the introduction of the national funding formula and / or decisions taken locally by the Schools Forum.