

## Agenda Item

9



## Report Status

For information/note   
For consultation & views   
For decision

### Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 11 January 2024

#### Report Title: Growth Fund 2023-24 distribution and 2024-25 Update

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#### Purpose:

**To inform members of the Growth Fund liabilities for 2024-25 and to decide on the distribution of unused growth fund in 2023-24**

#### Recommendations:

1. For Members information, regarding total estimated cost of 2024-25 Growth Fund set out in Table 1.
2. To agree the allocation back to schools of £149,295 unused growth fund in 2023-24 detailed in Appendix A

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document outlines the purpose of the centrally retained Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Growth Fund and the basis in which it will be distributed to eligible schools by the Authority.
- 1.2. Under the Schools Finance (England) Regulations of 2012, local authorities, with the agreement of the Schools Forum, are permitted to retain DSG to form a specific schools' contingency to support those schools that, with the prior agreement of the Authority, are permanently expanding and those schools experiencing significant in-year pupil roll increases. This specific schools' contingency is known as the Schools Growth Fund.
- 1.3. The funding changes introduced in April 2013 allow a local authority, with the approval of its Schools Forum, to top-slice a contingency for in year increases in pupil numbers. The Fund applies equally to maintained schools and recoupment academies and is designed to cover required in-year growth in forms of entry and not general variations in numbers experienced during the year.
- 1.4. This funding is equivalent to pro-rata financial-year equivalent to 7 months, from September to March, funding for the number of additional pupils expected to join the school in the Autumn as a result of the temporary expansion within a particular year group. Academies are currently funded for the whole 12 months and council to recoup funding for the 5 months from the ESFA.
- 1.5. This funding is intended to support the additional revenue costs associated with the expansion; teaching and support staffing costs, resourcing classroom equipment and share of senior management salaries cost.
- 1.6. Payments from the Schools Growth Fund will be profiled over the period for which they cover and will be paid with the monthly budget share payments to schools.
- 1.7. The proposed allocation for secondary bulge funding shown at para. 3 is based on theoretical modelling derived from school preference data. The proposed allocation may need be adjusted following completion of the PAN London offer iterative process in February 2024 when a more definitive view of additional capacity requirements can be gleaned i.e., the number of Haringey children remaining that require a secondary school place for September 2024 due to insufficient capacity.
- 1.8. Officers are required to report all payments made against the Growth Fund to Schools Forum at least once a year. Any unspent Growth Fund will usually be carried forward and added to the formula allocations for the following financial year. This year an unspent Growth Fund of **£149,295** can be carried forward to the 2024-25 financial year. Alternatively, Schools Forum can decide to distribute the remaining funds to all schools in this financial year or to allocate it for another purpose.
- 1.9. In 2023-24 the growth fund was set at £300K and at the year-end we estimate that balance of £149,295 will be unspent. It is **recommended** that the unused element of the growth fund to 2023-24 of £149,295 is allocated back to schools in the March 2024 payment to schools. The Growth Fund was originally top sliced from maintained schools and academies with the remaining grant distributed via the APT. Therefore, the distribution to schools has been calculated using the formula (School allocation = School PAN \* Unloaded funds / Total census Oct 2023) in Appendix A.

## 2. Growth Funding Formula (basis of allocations)

The criteria agreed by the School Forum for allocations from the Growth Fund to support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet the basic need are:

- Planned new form of entry approved by the Local Authority:

Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) x Expected Pupil Numbers x 7/12 months;	+	A set-up allocation of £500 for each pupil in a standard class size for the relevant setting.	=	Allocation for the year
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- In-year bulge class:
  - Start up and classroom costs as above;
- support additional classes needed to meet the infant class size regulation
- Ghost funding guarantee KS1:
  - Minimum basic per-pupil funding for 24 pupils in a bulge class established in a previous year: and
- KS1 classes forced to exceed 30 pupils as a result of appeals (further details of this criteria are set out in the Annex):
  - A lump sum equivalent to the funding of a main-scale 1-teacher £32.8k pro-rata to the part of the year.

## 3. Proposed Allocations 2024-25

Table 1

Indictive Growth Funding Allocation							
Financial Year 2024-25 - Projected Outturn							
	(a)	(b)	c = (a x b)	(d)	(e = c + d)	(f)	(e x f)
Bulge Funding - School Names	No of pupil	AWPU	Total	Setup - Cost (£500/pupil)	Total allocation (12)	No. of months	Total pro-rate allocation 24-25
Possible bulge class 2 - Secondary Academy (TBC)	24	5,678	136,262	12,000	148,262	12.00	148,262
Possible bulge class 3 - Secondary Community (TBC)	27	5,678	153,294	13,500	166,794	7.00	102,922
<b>Total Estimated Allocation</b>							<b>251,183</b>
Infant Class over size - School Names (estimation based on Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 payment made to schools)	Rate per pupil					No. of months	Total pro-rate allocation 24-25
Bounds Green Infant School	2,733					3	8,200
Belmount Infant School	2,733					1	2,733
Community Schools (TBC)	2,733					7	19,133
<b>Total Estimated Allocation</b>							<b>30,067</b>
Description						Budg	Amount
Growth Fund Allocation 2024-25							300,000
Less: Estimated Payment to schools to date							
<b>Estimated Bulge Funding</b>						251,183	
<b>Estimated Infant Class over size</b>						30,067	
<b>Total Estimated Growth fund Expenditure</b>							<b>281,250</b>
<b>Total Estimated Growth Fund Unallocated 2024-25</b>							<b>£18,750</b>

#### 4. Current year's Outturn position 2023-24

**Table 2**

1	Growth Funding Outturn						
2	Financial Year 2023-24						
3							
4							
5		(a)	(b)	c = (a x b)	(d)	(e = c + d)	(f)
6					Setup - Cost	Total	No. of
7	<b>Bulge Funding - School Names</b>	<b>No of pupil</b>	<b>AWPU</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>(£500/pupil)</b>	<b>allocation (12)</b>	<b>months</b>
8	Greig City Academy	24	5,324	127,772	12,000	139,772	12.00
9	<b>Total Allocation</b>						<b>139,772</b>
10							
11							
12							
13	<b>Infant Class over size - School Names</b>						<b>No. of</b>
14	<b>(Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 payment made to schools)</b>	<b>Rate</b>					<b>months</b>
15	Bounds Green Infant School	2,733					3
16	Belmont Infant School	2,733					1
17	<b>Total Allocation</b>						<b>10,933</b>
18							
19							
20	<b>Description</b>					<b>Budget</b>	<b>Total Amount (£)</b>
21	Growth Fund Allocation 2023-24						300,000
22	Payment to schools						
23	Bulge Funding					139,772	
24	Infant Class over size					10,933	
25	<b>Total Growth Fund Expenditure</b>						<b>150,705</b>
26	<b>Total Growth Fund Unallocated 2023-24</b>						<b>149,295</b>

#### Recommendations

1. For Members information, regarding total cost of 2024-25 Growth Fund set out in Table 1 above.
2. To distribute back to schools £149,295 of unused growth fund in 2023-24 set out in Table 2 above using £4.55 per child. (£4.55 per Child = Total unused allocation £149,295 / Oct 23 Census 32,843)

## Annex.

### Circumstances in which KS1 oversize class funding will be provided.

The legal position is:

**Infant class size** – *Infant classes (those where most children will reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the school year) **must not** contain more than 30 pupils with a single schoolteacher. Additional children may be admitted under limited exceptional circumstances. These children will remain an ‘excepted pupil’ for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit. The excepted children are:*

- a) children admitted outside the normal admissions round with statements of special educational needs specifying a school;*
- b) looked after children and previously looked after children admitted outside the normal admissions round;*
- c) children admitted, after initial allocation of places, because of a procedural error made by the admission authority or local authority in the original application process;*
- d) children admitted after an independent appeals panel upholds an appeal;*
- e) children who move into the area outside the normal admissions round for whom there is no other available school within reasonable distance;*
- f) children of UK service personnel admitted outside the normal admissions round;*
- g) children whose twin or sibling from a multiple birth is admitted otherwise than as an excepted pupil;*
- h) children with special educational needs who are normally taught in a special educational needs unit attached to the school, or registered at a special school, who attend some infant classes within the mainstream school.*

In these circumstances, therefore, it is not necessary to take on an additional teacher; however, it has been the practice in Haringey, and other councils, to continue to provide funding for KS1 classes forced to exceed 30 pupils. The DfE in its allowable criteria recognises this practice and we recommend that it continue as an incentive to schools to willingly accommodate these pupils at the start of their school career. Our recommendations are:

- That class size funding continues in the circumstances shown above.
- That KS1 class size funding recognises the local arrangement that requires a school to take a twin (multiple birth) even when this puts the school over number.
- That only one enhancement is made per school even if more than one KS1 class is over-size.