



Haringey Council

The Children and Young People's Service

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 15th January 2015

Agenda Item

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Report Status

For information/note
For consultation & views
For decision

Report Title: Growth Fund 2014-15.

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Purpose:

To inform members of the allocations required from the Growth Fund for 2014-15.

Recommendations:

1. That members agree to the allocations set out in Table 1.
2. That members agree that the remaining balance for the cost of TU representation is the first call on the use of rate rebates.

1. Introduction.

- 1.1. 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 recoument academies and is designed to cover required in-year growth in forms of entry and not general variations in numbers experienced during the year.
- 1.2. Schools Forum agreed to allocate £1.5m to a Growth Fund for the 2014-15 financial year. In addition the DfE make an adjustment to the amount taken for recoument academies to be added to the Fund. This compensates for the different financial year for academies and provides funding for the period April 2014 to August 2014¹.
- 1.3. Officers are required to report all payments made against the Growth Fund to Schools Forum at least once a year. Any unspent Growth Fund is carried forward and added to the formula allocations for the following financial year.

2. Criteria.

- 2.1. The criteria agreed by Forum for allocations from the Fund are:
 - Planned new form of entry approved by the Local Authority:
 - Classroom funding based on 7/12 months * appropriate basic per pupil entitlement * expected number in class; plus
 - A set-up allocation of £500 for each pupil in a standard class size for the relevant setting.
 - In-year bulge class:
 - Start up and classroom costs as above;
 - 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.

- 3.1. Table 1 sets out the resources now available in the Growth Fund and the proposed calls against it.

¹ Pupil number increases in September impact on maintained school funding from the following April but on academy budgets from the following September. Therefore there is a need to provide funding from April to August.

Table 1. Summary of Resources and Proposed Allocations to Date.

Resources Available			
Growth Fund		£1,500,000	
Recoupment Academy Adjustment for April to August		610,733	
Total		2,110,733	
Application			
School	Number	Type	£
Alexandra Primary	30	Expansion	77,326
Lancastrian	1	Bulge Class Protection	3,562
Muswell Hill		Oversize KS1 Class	32,800
Rhodes Ave Primary	30	Expansion	77,326
Rhodes Ave Primary		Oversize KS1 Class	32,800
Seven Sisters Primary	7	Bulge Class Protection	24,931
South Harringay Infants	3	Bulge Class Protection	10,685
St Aidan's Primary		Oversize KS1 Class	32,800
St James CE Primary	30	Bulge Class	77,326
St John Vianney RC Primary		Oversize KS1 Class	32,800
St Mary CE Primary	15	Bulge Protection	53,423
Stamford Hill Primary	8	Bulge Protection	28,492
Tetherdown Primary		Oversize KS1 Class	32,800
Welbourne Primary	30	Expansion	77,326
Weston Park Primary		Oversize KS1 Class	32,800
Heartlands High School		Expansion (Incorporated within Budget Share)	773,886
Heartlands High School		Academy Recoupment Adjustment for April to August.	529,650
Thomas More		Academy Recoupment Adjustment for April to August.	81,083
Total			2,011,816
Balance Remaining			98,917

4. TU Facilitators' Time 2014-15.

- 4.1. At the last meeting of the Forum it was agreed that the remaining balance be used to fund TU representatives' time in 2014-15. The actual cost in 2014-15, excluding funding in the Early Years and High Needs

Block, is estimated to be £120.5k. Applying the surplus will leave a balance of approximately £21.6 to be funded.

- 4.2. There have been rate rebates arising from rating revaluations that include adjustments for prior years, because the funding formula allows for 100% funding of rate bills any prior year rebates apply to the Dedicated Schools Budget rather than to individual schools. We will be reporting on this as part of the 2014-15 outturn report and Forum will be asked to decide on the use of this balance, expected to be in the region of £150k, and recommend that Forum agree that the remaining balance of approximately £21.6k be the first call on this rebate.

5. Recommendations.

- 5.1. **That members agree to the allocations set out in Table 1.**
- 5.2. **That members agree that the remaining balance for the cost of TU representation is the first call on the use of rate rebates.**

Annex.

Circumstances in which KS1 oversize class funding will be provided.

The legal position is:

Infant class size – *Infant classes (those where the majority of children will reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the school year) **must not** contain more than 30 pupils with a single school teacher. 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;*

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. This practice is recognised by the DfE in its allowable criteria 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 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.