

SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

SUBJECT:	Growth Policy 2017-18
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SUMMARY OF REPORT:

To notify SFF members of any changes to Kent's School Growth Funding Policy for 2018-19 and to seek ratification of the Growth Funding Policy for 2018-19 including amount to be top sliced from the Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

FOR:	Information and Recommendation
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Schools Formula funding is allocated using a lagged pupil funding system. This means that the funding a school receives for its financial year is based on the pupil count from the previous year. Where a school has an increase in pupil numbers (generally from September) it will not receive in year funding for those pupils.
- 1.2 In order to recognise the cost of additional resources needed to support the growth in pupil numbers, Local Authorities (LAs) are allowed to have a Growth fund that is top sliced from the DSG.
- 1.3 The operation of the LA Growth Fund has to comply with both Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) criteria and the LA criteria. Annually the Schools' Funding Forum agree the local Growth Policy which is then submitted to the ESFA for compliance to national regulations.

2. Growth Policy Document 2018-19

- 2.1 Appendix 1 to this paper is the proposed Kent Growth Funding Policy for 2018-19. Changes to 2017-18 Growth Policy come under two headings, the first is a change to the presentation of the 2017-18 Growth Policy and second is an actual change to policy.

Changes to the Presentation of the Growth Policy.

2.2 These changes are cosmetic with the intention of providing greater clarity to the reader. There is no change to section 5 Amalgamations funding, with the exception of the change detailed in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.6, the contents of the 2017-18 Growth Policy has now been re- formatted under the following headings

- Annual Revenue Resources Cost
- Contribution to Learning Space Set Up Costs
- New School Start Up Funding

Actual Change to policy

New School Start Up Funding for Secondary Schools and Special Schools.

2.3 The purpose of this element of growth funding is to recognise revenue setup costs prior to the school opening.

2.4 There will be a number of new schools opening under this category over the medium term with the first new Secondary school expected to open in 2019. As the characteristics of a Secondary School and a Special School are different to a Primary school, work has been carried out to determine a suitable level of Start Up funding. For information Kent's Growth Policy already has an agreed amount of £50,000 for Start Up cost in a new Primary School.

2.5 The process carried out to determine an appropriate level of Start Up funding was firstly to gather information from Other Local Authorities and secondly to consult with Kent's four Area Education Offices (AEOs).

2.6 The outcome of this process recommends that:

- 1) A new Secondary School can access Start Up funding of up to £143,000, see appendix 1 for breakdown of the funding.
- 2) All applications are compliant with paragraph 4.3 from the Growth Policy for 2018-19 (appendix 1 to this document).

3 Contribution to Learning Space Set Up Costs

2.7 For a Secondary School and a Special School the current policy is for the AEO to determine the number of Learning Spaces in the school and this will be funded at £6,000 per space.

2.8 Currently the £6,000 is based on the Classroom setup costs for a Primary School with 30 pupils in a class. It has been recognised that the

characteristics of a Primary School is different to a Secondary School and Special School, therefore a piece of work needs to be carried to establish an appropriate level of funding. This piece of work is scheduled to start in April 2018 and any findings and recommendations will subsequently be brought to the SFF for its consideration.

Recommendations.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members of the Forum are asked to note the content of this paper and make comments.