

## SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Growth Funding Policy (GFP) 2019-20
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<b>DATE:</b>	30 November 2018

### **SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

The purpose of this paper is to seek the annual ratification of Kent's Growth Policy by members of the SFF for the period 2019-20.

<b>FOR:</b>	Decision
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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 2019-20**

- 2.1 Appendices 1 and 2 to this paper are the proposed Kent GFP for 2019-20. There are no proposed changes to the 2018-19 GFP.
- 2.2 At the SFF meeting on the 1 December 2017 a commitment was made by the Local Authority to review the methodology for allocating funding for classroom

setup costs (currently £6,000 per learning space). This piece of work has not been completed, but will be continued to its conclusion during the period April 2019 to November 2019.

2.3 The value of Kent's Growth Fund for 2018-19 was £10.7m, this was made up of:

- £2m from Kent's Schools Block DSG generated by Primary Unit of Funding (PUF) and Secondary Unit of Funding (SUF) funding
- £8.7m from the National Funding Formula (NFF) growth allocation.

2.4 The ESFA are introducing a new methodology for calculating NFF growth allocation from 2019-20. Our estimate is that Kent will receive around £8m (confirmation of final amount will be provided by the ESFA mid to late December).

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 Members of the Forum are requested to ratify:

- 1) That they agree with the contents of the Growth Policy for 2019-20 detailed in appendices 1 & 2
- 2) That they agree with the value of the Growth Fund made up of £2m from PUFs and SUFs plus the NFF growth allocation to be confirmed later in December.