

## SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Growth Funding Policy (GFP) 2020-21
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<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</b>	
The purpose of this paper is to seek the annual ratification of Kent's Growth Policy by members of the SFF for the period 2020-21.	
<b>FOR:</b>	Decision

### 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 2020-21

- 2.1 Appendices 1 and 2 to this paper are the proposed Kent Growth Funding Policy (GFP) for 2020-21. There are no proposed changes to the 2020-21 GFP however, the Forum are asked to agree a possible word change to ensure a school is not double funded if the Mobility factor is added as an additional factor to the Local Funding Formula. We cannot determine if this

will be an issue until the 2020-21 budget data is released by the ESFA in December 2019.

- 2.2 At previous SFF meetings a commitment has been 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. The fund is expected to reduce significantly next year and it is recommended the review is deferred until 2021.
- 2.3 The value of Kent's Growth Fund for 2019-20 was £10.3m, 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
  - £8.3m from the National Funding Formula (NFF) growth allocation.
- 2.4 The ESFA introduced a new methodology for calculating the NFF growth allocation from 2019-20. Our estimate is that Kent will receive around £7.3m for 2020-21 (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:

- 1) Agree with the contents of the Growth Policy for 2020-21 detailed in appendices 1 & 2
- 2) Agree for a possible amendment to the Growth Policy for 2020-21 to ensure a school is not double funded if the Mobility Factor is introduced to the Local Funding Formula.
- 3) Agree with the value of the Growth Fund is the NFF growth allocation to be confirmed later in December.
- 4) Agree to defer the review of the classroom set up costs.