

# SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORUM

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| <b>SUBJECT:</b> | Growth Funding Policy (GFP) 2022-23 |
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| <b>AUTHORS:</b> | Chris Scott – Manager, Schools, High Needs and Early Years Budgets |
| <b>DATE:</b>    | 20 January 2022  |

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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 2022-23, in addition it seeks to draw particular attention to the new section included for this year only for pupils leaving High Weald Academy. |                         |
| <b>FOR:</b>  | Decision and discussion |

## 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 2022-23**

- 2.1 The proposed Kent Growth Funding Policy (GFP) for 2022-23 is attached to this paper and includes an appendix.
- 2.2 The value of Kent's Growth Fund for 2022-23 is £8.8m from the National Funding Formula (NFF) growth allocation.
- 2.3 LA officers are currently dealing with a complaint made by a school seeking funding for a bulge class agreed a few years ago, but which is no longer in existence. It was never intended for the growth policy to provide funding in such circumstances although this could be made clearer in the policy. As such the following changes of wording are proposed.

### Section 2.3 3) Old Wording

Protection is provided for the full period until the pupils leave in year 6.

### New Wording

Protection is provided for the full period any additional classes remain open until the pupils leave the school.

### Section 2.7 Old Wording

The new class is protected on 21 pupils for the duration of period that the pupils are at the school.

### New wording

The new class is protected on 21 pupils for the duration of the period that the pupils attend school.

### New Paragraph

2.8 In all cases, funding for bulge classes is contingent upon the opening and continued maintenance of such classes, containing a number of pupils in excess of any vacancies in alternative classes in the relevant year group.

- 2.4 An additional section (7) has been added to the policy for this year only to provide for growth funding payments on account of previously High Weald Academy pupils which the forum is asked to give particular consideration.

## **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members of the Forum are recommended to approve the Growth Policy as attached.