

Schools Forum 14 July 2022

Growth Fund - Allocation of Funding 2022/23

Recommendations

- 1) That Schools Forum note the allocations of Growth Fund:
 - a. funding for infant class size legislation:
2 primary schools
 - b. funding for exceptional basic need growth:
1 primary school; 2 secondary schools
 - c. funding for new schools:
pre-opening costs for 1 new free school opening in 2023/24
post-opening costs for 5 free schools opened between 2019/20 and 2022/23

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Families and Communities:

Why is it coming here – what decision is required?

- 1) In accordance with the DfE's schools revenue funding operational guidance, "the growth fund can only be used to:
 - "support growth in pre-16 pupil numbers to meet **basic need**
 - "support additional classes needed to meet the **infant class size regulation**
 - "meet the costs of **new schools**"
- 2) On 11 February 2013, Schools Forum agreed to establish Growth Fund criteria and members asked to be advised of funding allocations.
- 3) On 16 January 2018, Forum revised the policy for new free schools opened by Staffordshire County Council through its free school presumption process (separate from with the "wave" process followed by DfE to open free schools.
- 4) On 25 March 2021, Forum approved an increased Growth Fund budget of £2,000,000, in accordance with the national funding formulae for schools. Any underspend in the growth fund would be contributed to DSG balances.
- 5) On 13 January 2022, Forum agreed to end the requirement for schools that are eligible for growth funding to submit a financial self-declaration from 2022/23.

Reasons for recommendations:

Funding for infant class size legislation

- 6) In accordance with the infant class size criteria, **£43,992 will be allocated to 2 schools** based on an agreed number of additional infant class teachers.
- a) Rushton CE (C) Primary School (Staffordshire Moorlands)
£11,476 towards the cost of a 2nd infant class teacher
 - b) St. Leonard's CE (A) First School, Ipstones (Staffordshire Moorlands)
£32,516 towards the cost of a 2nd infant class teacher

Funding for basic need growth

- 7) In accordance with the basic need growth criteria, **£128,550 will be allocated to 3 schools** that worked with the LA to meet exceptional population growth locally by creating an additional class (in primary schools) or exceeding PAN by at least 5% (by middle and secondary schools).
- a) Doxey Primary School (Stafford)
£42,850 for 1 additional infant class teacher (YR)
 - b) Nether Stowe High School (Lichfield)
£42,850 allocation
 - c) King Edward VI School (Lichfield)
£42,850 allocation

Funding for the cost of new schools

- 8) In accordance with the new schools' criteria, a total of **£252,000 will be allocated** for post-opening costs for **5** new free schools with an opening date between 2019/20 and 2022/23 and pre-opening costs for **1** new free school planned to open in 2023/24.
- a) Poppyfield Primary Academy (Cannock Chase)
£20,250 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2019)
 - b) Streethay Primary School (Lichfield)
£20,250 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2019)
 - c) Anker Valley Primary Academy (Tamworth)
£49,750 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2021)
 - d) Bramshall Meadows First School (East Staffordshire)
£39,000 towards pre-opening costs (opening in 2022)

- e) Fradley Park Primary School (Lichfield)
£57,250 towards post-opening costs (opening in 2022)
- f) Deanslade Farm Primary School (Lichfield)
£65,500 towards pre-opening costs (planned to open in 2023)

Total expenditure

- 9) The total allocation of **£43,992** for infant class size legislation
- 10) The total allocation of **£380,550** for basic need growth and new schools funding
- 11) These represent an **underspend of £1,471,038 against the budget of £1,895,580.**
- 12) Any underspends will be contributed to DSG balances.
- 13) Expenditure on the cost of new free schools will grow in future years as the number of new schools increases. For information, Appendix A shows indicative costs for new schools proposed to be open by 2026/2027.

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Appendix A: Indicative pre- and post-opening revenue start-up costs for all new free schools opening between 2022/23 to 2025/26

Estimated Opening date	School Name	School Type/size	District	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
2019	Streethay Primary School - open	1FE Primary	Lichfield	£20,250	£13,500	£6,250	£0	
2019	Poppyfield Primary Academy - open	1FE Primary	Cannock	£20,250	£13,500	£6,250	£0	
2021	Anker Valley Primary Academy - open	1FE Primary	Tamworth	£49,750	£43,000	£20,250	£13,500	£6,250
2022	Bramshall Meadows First School - opening	1FE First	East Staffs	£39,000	£32,250	£24,500	£6,250	£0
2022	Fradley Park Primary & Nursery Schoool - opening	1FE Primary	Lichfield	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000	£20,250	£13,500
2023	Deanslade Farm	1FE Primary	Lichfield	£65,500	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000	£20,250
2023	*Rugeley Power Station	2FE Primary and 5FE Secondary	Rugeley		£0	£0	£0	£0
2024	*Branston Locks	2FE Primary	Burton		£0	£0	£0	£0
2024	Dunstall Farm	1FE Primary	Tamworth		£65,500	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000
2024	Tamworth Golf Course	1FE Primary	Tamworth		£65,500	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000
2024	Stafford North SDL site	1FE Primary	Stafford		£65,500	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000
2025	Watery Lane	1FE Primary	Lichfield			£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
2025	South of Shortbutts Lane	1FE Primary	Lichfield			£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
2025	Stafford West SDL site - Burleyfields	1FE Primary	Stafford			£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
Totals for schools opening 2022/23-2026/27				£252,000	£405,750	£518,250	£404,000	£318,250

*These are schools of at least 2FE that would be opened under the DfE’s free school “wave” programme, where the DfE funds the pre- and post-opening start-up costs.

NB The opening dates (and funding) are subject to change as they are based on estimated housing trajectories updated by Local Planning Authorities in each district and borough council.