

Schools Forum 13th July 2023

Growth Fund - Allocation of Funding 2023/24

Recommendations

- 1) That Schools Forum note the allocations of Growth Fund:
 - a. funding for infant class size legislation:
6 primary schools
 - b. funding for exceptional basic need growth:
1 primary school; 2 high schools and 2 secondary schools
 - c. funding for new schools:
pre-opening costs for 3 new free schools opening in 2024/25 and
post-opening costs for 6 free schools opened between 2019/20-2022/23

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 Operational Guide, "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 formula 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, **£143,611 will be allocated to 5 schools** based on an agreed number of additional infant class teachers.
- a) St Stephen's Primary School, Fradley (Lichfield) £28,722 towards the cost of an infant class teacher
 - b) St. Leonard's CE (A) First School, Ipstones (Staffordshire Moorlands) £6,155 towards the cost of an infant class teacher
 - c) Castle Primary School, Mow Cop (Newcastle) £38,980 towards the cost of an infant teacher
 - d) The Meadows Primary School, Madeley Heath (Newcastle) £16,413 towards the cost of an infant class teacher
 - e) St Chad's CE (VC) Primary School (Newcastle) £28,722 towards the cost of an infant class teacher
 - f) Doxey Primary School (Stafford Borough) £24,619 towards the cost of an infant teacher

Funding for basic need growth

- 7) In accordance with the basic need growth criteria, **£322,210 will be allocated to 5 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) Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy (East Staffordshire) £46,030 for 1 additional infant class teacher (YR)
 - b) The Staffordshire University Academy (Cannock Chase) £138,090 allocation
 - c) Biddulph High School (Staffordshire Moorlands) £46,030 allocation
 - d) Codsall Community High School (South Staffordshire) £46,030 allocation
 - e) Nether Stowe School (Lichfield) £46,030 allocation

Funding for the cost of new schools

8) In accordance with the new schools criteria, a total of **£405,750 will be allocated** for post-opening costs for **6** new free schools with an opening date between 2019/20 and 2023/24 and pre-opening costs for **3** new free schools planned to open in 2024/25.

- a) Poppyfield Primary Academy (Cannock Chase)
£13,500 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2019)
- b) Streethay Primary School (Lichfield)
£13,500 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2019)
- c) Anker Valley Primary Academy (Tamworth)
£43,000 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2021)
- d) Bramshall Meadows First School (East Staffordshire)
£32,250 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2022)
- e) Fradley Park Primary & Nursery School (Lichfield)
£49,750 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2022)
- f) Anna Seward Primary School (Lichfield)
£57,250 towards post-opening costs (opening in 2023)
- g) Dunstall Farm, Tamworth (Lichfield)
£65,500 towards pre-opening costs (planned to open in 2024)
- h) Tamworth Golf Club (Tamworth)
£65,500 towards pre-opening costs (planned to open in 2024)
- i) Beaconfields Primary and Nursery School (Stafford)
£65,500 towards pre-opening costs (planned to open in 2024)

Total expenditure

- 9) The total allocation of **£143,611** for infant class size legislation.
- 10) The total allocation of **£727,960** for basic need growth and new schools funding.
- 11) These represents an **underspend of £1,860,759 against the budget of £2,732,330.**
- 12) Any underspends will be contributed to DSG balances.

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