

Schools Forum 15 July 2021

Growth Fund - Allocation of Funding 2021/22

Recommendations

- 1) That Schools Forum note the allocations of Growth Fund:
 - a. funding for infant class size legislation:
1 primary school
 - b. funding for exceptional basic need growth:
1 primary school; 3 secondary schools
 - c. funding for new schools:
pre-opening costs for 2 new free school opening in 2022/23
post-opening costs for 3 free schools opened in 2019/20 and 2021/22

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](#), growth fund can 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) In 25 March 2021, Forum approved an increased Growth Fund budget of £2,000,000. This is in line with the principles of conversion to the NFF’s formula. Any underspend in the growth fund would be contributed to DSG balances.
- 5) To reduce administrative burdens during COVID-19, schools were not asked to submit a financial self-declaration with information on the three previous financial years.

Reasons for recommendations:

Funding for infant class size legislation

- 6) In accordance with the infant class size criteria, **£11,164 will be allocated to 1 school** based on an agreed number of additional infant teachers.
- a) Rushton CE (C) Primary School (Staffordshire Moorlands)
£11,164 towards the cost of a 2nd infant class teacher

Funding for basic need growth

- 7) In accordance with the basic need growth criteria, **£168,080 will be allocated to 4 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) Bishop Lonsdale CE (VC) Primary School (Stafford)
£42,020 for 1 additional infant class teacher (YR)
 - b) Codsall Community High School (South Staffordshire)
£42,020 allocation
 - c) Alleynes High School (Stafford)
£42,020 allocation
 - d) The Weston Road Academy (Stafford)
£42,020 allocation

Funding for the cost of new schools

- 8) In accordance with the new schools' criteria, a total of **£262,250 will be allocated** for post-opening costs for **3** new free schools that opened in 2019/20 and 2021/22 and pre-opening costs for **2** new free schools opening in 2022/23.
- a) Poppyfield Primary Academy (Cannock Chase)
£43,000 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2019)
 - b) Streethay Primary School Free School (Lichfield)
£43,000 towards post-opening costs (opened in 2019)
 - c) Anker Valley Primary Academy (Tamworth)
£57,250 towards post-opening costs (opening in 2021)
 - d) Bramshall Meadows First School (East Staffordshire)
£53,500 towards pre-opening costs (opening 2022)
 - e) Fradley Park Primary School (Lichfield) £65,500 towards pre-opening costs (opening 2022)

Total expenditure

- 9) The total allocation of £11,164 for infant class size legislation
- 10) The total allocation of £430,330 for basic need growth and new schools funding
- 11) These represent an **underspend of £1,558,506 against the budget of £2,000,000.**
- 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 2025/2026.

Report author: Andrew Marsden, County Commissioner for Access to Learning
Tel. No: 01785 278787

Appendix A: Indicative pre- and post-opening revenue start-up costs for all new free schools 2021/22 to 2025/26

Estimated pre and post opening costs for new free schools over the next 5 years (2021/22-2025/26)									
Estimated Opening date	School Name	School Type/size	District	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
2019	Streethay Primary - open	1FE Primary	Lichfield	£49,750	£43,000	£20,250	£13,500	£6,250	£0
2019	Poppyfield Primary Academy - open	1FE Primary	Cannock	£49,750	£43,000	£20,250	£13,500	£6,250	£0
2021	Anker Valley Primary	1FE Primary	Tamworth	£65,500	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000	£20,250	£13,500
2022	Bramshall Meadows	1FE First	East Staffs	£12,000	£53,500	£39,000	£32,250	£24,500	£6,250
2022	Fradley Park	1FE Primary	Lichfield		£65,500	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000	£20,250
2023	Deanslade Farm	1FE primary	Lichfield			£65,500	£57,250	£49,750	£43,000
2023	*Rugeley Power Station	2FE Primary and 5FE Secondary	Rugeley			£0	£0	£0	£0
2024	*Branston Locks	2FE Primary	Burton				£0	£0	£0
2024	Watery Lane	1FE Primary	Lichfield				£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
2024	Tamworth: Dunstall Lane	1FE Primary	Tamworth				£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
2024	Tamworth Golf Course	1FE Primary	Tamworth				£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
2024	Stafford North SDL site	1FE Primary	Stafford				£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
2024	South of Shortbutts Lane	1FE Primary	Lichfield				£65,500	£57,250	£49,750
2025	Stafford North SDL site	2FE Primary	Stafford					£131,000	£114,500
2025	Burton: Beamhill - Primary	1FE Primary	East Staffs					£65,500	£57,250
Totals for schools opening 2021/22-2025/26				£177,000	£262,250	£252,000	£536,750	£632,750	£503,500

*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.