

SLOUGH SCHOOLS' FORUM
8 May 2013

Growth Fund
(Director of Wellbeing)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Schools Forum and all schools about how the Growth Fund will work in 2013-14 and beyond.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 None, paper for information only.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None, paper for information only.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 The Operation of the Growth Fund

- 5.2 The DfE allowed the introduction of a contingency to support planned increase in school sizes from 2013-14. Unlike other contingencies, funding is taken from both academies and maintained schools. The Schools' Forum has to agree the size of the Growth Fund and the criteria for distributing funds. This paper is for information as many schools have been asking about how expansions will be funded in 2013-14.
- 5.3 The Schools' Forum agreed that the Growth Fund will be £350,000 in 2013-14. Any under or overspend will form part of the overall DSG under or overspend to be carried forward to 2014-15.
- 5.4 Expansions of at least half a class (15 pupils) will be funded from the Growth Fund if the expansion has been agreed by the School Organisational Group.
- 5.5 Funding will be at the appropriate AWPU/Basic Entitlement rate for the expanding class. There are now only three AWPU rates, for Primary, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Below is an example for a new primary class of 30 opening in September 2013.

2013-14 Primary AWPU Rate = £3,150

September 2013 to March 2014 = 7/12ths of the financial year.

£3,150 x 30 x 7/12ths = £55,125

- 5.6 From the following April, April 2014 in this example, the class would be funded in the normal funding formula based on October 2013 pupil data. This does mean that this new class will be funded to capacity for the first 7 months but it will be funded on actual numbers after that.
- 5.7 Academies and maintained schools are both funded for new classes from the Growth Fund assuming that the qualifying criteria have been met. Funding for academies will therefore come from Slough through the academy cash sheet.
- 5.8 Payments can be made to schools before the class is due to begin but only once the School Organisational Group has given their approval.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of this report.

Section 151 Officer – Strategic Director of Resources

- 6.2 The financial implications of the report are outlined in the supporting information.

Access Implications

- 6.3 There are no access implications.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Not Applicable.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not Applicable.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Not applicable.

Contact for further information

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